

Text of Memorandum on

The key legal point in Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy's suit to halt publication of William Manchester's book on the assassination of her husband is an 11-point memorandum drafted when the Kennedy family first asked biographer-novelist Manchester to write the "official" account of the Presidential killing and events immediately preceding and following it.

The memorandum was signed by Manchester and Robert F. Kennedy. Here is the full text:

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ROBERT F. KENNEDY AND WILLIAM MANCHESTER

1. William Manchester shall prepare for publication an historical account of the events of and surrounding the death of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963.
2. Tentatively, the book will cover the period November 20-25, with an epilogue describing later, relevant events.
3. The completed manuscript shall be reviewed by Mrs. John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy, and the text—the word "final" was crossed out before text and initialled by the signatories—shall not be published unless and until approved by them.—The phrase, "not be published . . ." was written in and again initialled, to replace "be approved by them."—
4. No motion picture or TV adaptation shall ever be made based on the book. Other rights may be disposed of by William Manchester, with the approval of Mrs. John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy, though it is not the intention to prevent the sale of serial option rights to a responsible publisher.
5. At the request of the Kennedy family, the publisher will be Harper & Row. With that understanding, William Manchester has secured a written release from an option held by his present publisher, Little, Brown and Company.
6. The book may not be published before November 22, 1968, —the phrase "unless Mrs. Kennedy designates a prior date," was written in and initialed here—and shall be published at such date thereafter as shall be mutually agreeable to the contracting parties. It is understood that publication will take place promptly after November 22, 1968, unless there is some serious reason for either party to withhold his agreement thereto.
7. Since this account is to be an authorized version, the principle of exclusivity shall prevail until November 22, 1968. That is, members of the Kennedy family shall not cooperate with any other author who wishes to deal with the subject.
8. It is understood that William Manchester may need introductions to certain public officials and access to certain pertinent documents. In this matter, Robert F. Kennedy will provide any assistance which he deems wise, and William Manchester undertakes to treat such material

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9. Upon the signing of this memorandum, a brief public announcement of the project shall be made by Robert F. Kennedy, or by Mrs. John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy jointly.
10. In the event Mr. Manchester is unable to complete the manuscript or if he should die before completion, Mrs. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy will have the right to approve the individual who will complete the work.
11. If both Mrs. John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy become unable to review the completed manuscript and give final approval thereto, such approval shall be given by Senator Edward F. Kennedy or someone he designates.

Signed: March 26, 1964

/s/ Robert F. Kennedy

/s/ William Manchester