

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
IN SUPREME COURT  
C4-85-1848

OFFICE OF  
APPELLATE COURTS  
JUN 9 2010  
FILED

ORDER AUTHORIZING  
DISCLOSURE OF STATEWIDE  
PATERNITY CASE RECORDS  
TO CHILD SUPPORT OFFICES

ORDER

The State of Minnesota, Department of Human Services (“DHS”) has requested that our Court grant certain county agencies access to MNCIS paternity case records (“the Records”) on a statewide basis. DHS requests access to the Records on behalf of all 84 Minnesota Child Support Enforcement Agencies at the county level that provide child support enforcement programs under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act (“County IV-D Agencies”). DHS seeks this access in order to assist the County IV-D Agencies in the efficient performance of their duties as required by law and court rules. This Court has the inherent power and statutory authority to regulate access to the Records.

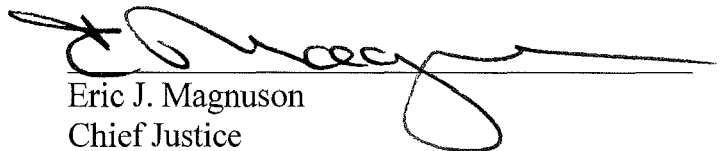
Several County IV-D Agencies already have access to MNCIS paternity case records on a county-wide or judicial-district-wide basis under a district court order. Such orders are presently issued after a county agency has entered into an appropriate nondisclosure agreement with the judicial branch and has submitted to the state court administrator’s office a request form for the records. County agencies often need to look beyond their county or judicial district, however, as the population seeking support services tends to become more mobile. After having considered DHS’s request and being fully advised, this

Court concludes that expanding MNCIS paternity case record access to a statewide basis is necessary to address the mobile population that County IV-D Agencies encounter.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, under Rules 2 and 4, subdivision 1(e), of the Rules of Public Access to Records of the Judicial Branch, statewide MNCIS paternity case records (“the Records”) be made available to any County IV-D Agency of a county that has entered into an appropriate nondisclosure agreement with the judicial branch and has submitted any required request form to the state court administrator’s office. It is further ordered that disclosure of the Records to and use of the Records by County IV-D Agencies is subject to the conditions set forth in the nondisclosure agreement.

Dated: June 8, 2010

BY THE COURT:

  
Eric J. Magnuson  
Chief Justice