

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

#C4-85-1848

OFFICE OF
APPELLATE COURTS

DEC 03 2001

ORDER AUTHORIZING
ACCESS TO FAMILY LAW CASE RECORDS

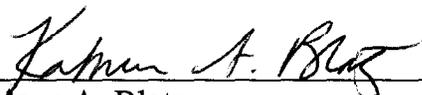
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Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance, Legal Services Advocacy Project ("Legal Services") has received a grant from the McKnight Foundation to research attorney fee awards in family law cases in Blue Earth, Hennepin and Stearns counties ("the Study"). Carrie Miller ("Volunteer") is engaged in providing data collection services to Legal Services on a volunteer basis in connection with the Study. Family law case records ("the Records") contain a mixture of publicly accessible information and sensitive, confidential information that may not be made available to Legal Services and Volunteer without a court order. Making the Records available to Legal Services and Volunteer without redacting all of the sensitive, confidential information will expedite the Study and minimize the administrative burden on trial court staff in Blue Earth and Stearns counties. Legal Services and Volunteer have agreed in writing that they will not attempt to access the sensitive, confidential information and to the extent that sensitive, confidential information is accessed, Legal Services and Volunteer will not disclose it to any third party, and Legal Services and Volunteer will take all appropriate action, whether by instruction, agreement, or otherwise, to insure the protection, confidentiality and security of the information obtained from the Records.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Rule 2 of the Rules of Public Access to Records of the Judicial Branch, and by virtue of and under the inherent power and statutory authority of the Minnesota Supreme Court to regulate public access to records maintained by the judicial branch, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the District Courts in Blue Earth and Stearns counties shall make the Records available to the Legal Services and Volunteer for purposes of the Study subject to the conditions set forth in the Nondisclosure Agreements between Volunteer, Legal Services and the State Court Administrator's Office, dated "rev. 11/20/01".

Dated: December 3, 2001

BY THE COURT:



Kathleen A. Blatz
Chief Justice