

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

C2-00-2174

OFFICE OF  
APPELLATE COURTS

JUL 15 2002

FILED

**ORDER AUTHORIZING ACCESS TO JUVENILE  
COURT RECORDS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
COUNTIES PARTICIPATING IN THE CHILDREN'S  
JUSTICE INITIATIVE**

The Children's Justice Initiative is a juvenile court improvement project designed to implement the practices and procedures recommended in the *Resource Guidelines: Improved Court Practice in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases* published by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Through a phased-in process, each of Minnesota's 87 counties will begin participation in the Children's Justice Initiative during the period from 2000 through 2006.

As part of the Children's Justice Initiative, personnel from the State Court Administrator's Office and the Minnesota Department of Human Services will conduct a Case Management Review of each county's existing child protection practices and procedures. The Case Management Review will require access to each county's juvenile protection hearings and court files.

Sound public policy, reflected in the Juvenile Protection Rules and Minnesota Statutes § 13.05, subdivision 7, supports access by personnel from the State Court Administrator's Office and the Minnesota Department of Human Services to each county's juvenile court hearings and court files.

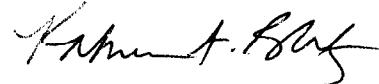
NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Rule 2 of the Rules of Public Access to Records of the Judicial Branch, and by virtue of and under the inherent power and statutory authority of the Minnesota Supreme Court to regulate public access to hearings and records maintained by the judicial branch,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. Personnel from the State Court Administrator's Office and the Minnesota Department of Human Services are granted access to the juvenile court files and hearings of the counties involved in the Children's Justice Initiative.
2. It shall not be a violation of this Order for a district court judge in any of the participating Children's Justice Initiative counties to deny personnel from State Court Administration or the Minnesota Department of Human Services access to any particular juvenile court hearing or record a case-by-case or record-by-record basis.

Dated: July 11, 2002

BY THE COURT:



Kathleen A. Blatz  
Chief Justice