

July 1, 2011

Special Master Kathleen Blatz
Minnesota Judicial Center, Room 230
25 Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155

FILED
Court Administrator
JUL - 1 2011
By Deputy

Re: Supreme Court Case A11-1170

Dear Special Master Blatz:

St. David's Center for Child & Family Development would like to submit this petition on behalf of the vulnerable citizens of Minnesota we serve. We recommend to the court that background studies be added to the list of essential services during the state shutdown.

As a result of the shutdown, two significant challenges result from an inability to receive completed background clearances from the Department of Human Services:

1. In the case of vulnerable individuals who are eligible to receive services who are seeking to fill hours, without clearances, we cannot provide services essential to their health and safety; and
2. In the case of staff turnover, without clearances, we will be unable to replace staff and therefore our staffing ratios will fall outside regulations related to health and safety.

The inability to run background checks and place people in jobs to support vulnerable citizens of Minnesota will leave vulnerable individuals without the necessary services to protect their health and safety, negating the ruling of Medicaid services as essential services.

On behalf of the vulnerable individuals this decision impacts, thank you for your consideration of the urgency and importance in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie Sjodal
Executive Director