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Hennepin County Court Services Curtailed Wednesday Afternoons

For Immediate Release

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (December 28, 2007) – The Fourth Judicial District, serving Hennepin County, implements curtailed hours beginning Wednesday afternoons, 1:30-4:30 pm on January 2, 2008. Walk-in counter and telephone services will be closed. Court appearances and trials will continue as scheduled.

“Hennepin County Courts have placed a high focus on access and public service,” said Lucy Wieland, Chief Judge, Fourth Judicial District – Hennepin County District Court. “Unfortunately, budget realities won’t allow us to continue that level of service. We don’t like it, but, we don’t have a choice.”

Here are some of the changes that will impact the public:

- Walk-in counter and telephone services in all court locations will be curtailed Wednesday afternoons, 1:30-4:30 pm, beginning January 2, 2008 to allow court staff to complete necessary case processing, filing and other administrative functions. (Filings will be accepted at the Court Information Desk on the skyway level of the Hennepin County Government Center during this time.)
- Citizens will no longer be able to pay traffic tickets in person, request copies of court files, see a hearing officer or receive information on cases via telephone on Wednesday afternoons at all court locations. Payment drop boxes (checks only) are located at several court locations.
- The court will no longer conduct criminal record checks for the public. This information is accessible online through the MNCIS Public Access (MPA). The public terminals will be available during regular business hours except for Wednesdays 1:30-4:30 pm.
- All court appearances and trials will continue as scheduled on Wednesday afternoons.
- Hennepin County services (probation, driver’s license, tax payments, etc.) are not affected.

Forms, instructions and other information are available to the public on the Web site at www.mncourts.gov/district/4.

About the Fourth Judicial District

The State of Minnesota’s Fourth Judicial District serves only Hennepin County and is the state’s largest trial court with more than 750,000 cases received annually. The mission of the Fourth Judicial District is to provide a system of justice that assures equal access for the fair and timely resolution of cases and controversies. For more information, visit the Web site at www.mncourts.gov/district/4/.

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