STATE OF MINNESOTA | IN DISTRICT COURT

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY 25

APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC DEFENDERS AS JUVENILE RIGHTS ADVISORS AND DISTRIBUTION OF JUVENILE PETITIONS

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Rule 4 of the interim Rules of Juvenile Procedure requires that a child has the right to counsel no later than the child's first appearance in court. The Eighth Judicial District Public Defenders have agreed to provide standby counsel at first appearances in juvenile proceedings where the child has a right to counsel at the first appearance. After deliberation of the judges of the Eighth Judicial District and to encourage a meaningful discussion of the child's rights pertaining to the juvenile petition being considered, the following shall be the policy of the Eighth Judicial District:

1. The Eighth Judicial District Public Defenders are appointed to serve as juvenile rights advisors for all juveniles at their first appearance in court unless otherwise represented by privately retained counsel.

2. The court administrator shall distribute a copy of the summons, petition and filed discovery documents to the public defender's office serving the county at the same time the petition and summons are served upon the child and the child's parents.

3. The public defender shall maintain the confidentiality of the contents of the juvenile petition and discovery documents if the public defender is ultimately not appointed to represent the child.

4. This procedure shall not eliminate the responsibility of the court to make financial inquiry and appoint an attorney if the child or the child's parents cannot afford to hire private counsel.

Dated: May 15, 1995

B. W. Christopherson

Bruce W. Christopherson
Chief Judge
Eighth Judicial District