
Standing Order on Hearing Officer Authority

Whereas, Minn. Stat. §484.91 authorizes the establishment of a misdemeanor violations bureau in accordance with Rule 23 of the Rules of Criminal Procedure to handle petty misdemeanors (generally traffic and other payable citations); and

Whereas, Hennepin County District Court has operated a Violations Bureau since 1972, that is now known as the Hearing and Fines Management Office; and

Whereas, it is appropriate to promulgate a standing order to reflect the delegated authority of hearing officers from the Court to act in accordance with the authority granted by individual jurisdictions within Hennepin County.

Now, therefore, the Court enters the following:

ORDER

1. All persons hired by Hennepin County District Court and designated as hearing officers shall be supervised by the Court Administrator in accordance with established personnel rules and procedures.
2. Pursuant to established written guidelines provided by each municipality and other local jurisdictions within Hennepin County that wish to refer cases to the Hearing and Fines Management Office, applicable misdemeanor cases may be resolved without a court hearing.
3. Under those guidelines, and subject to established internal written procedures, hearing officers are authorized to (i) reduce or suspend fines; (ii) dismiss parking, plate and equipment citations; (iii) refer defendants to Client and Community Restoration, a

division of the Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections (i.e. Hennepin County probation) for programs to work off their fines or have their case dismissed or continued for dismissal by completing defensive driving classes, Sentence to Service or Community Work Service or through satisfaction of other designated conditions (e.g. securing auto insurance; obtaining a valid driver's license, etc.).

4. Persons issued a citation from a jurisdiction granting limited authority to hearing officers must have a hearing with a hearing officer before setting a citation for a court appearance.
5. This Standing Order shall apply permanently until expressly superceded by another standing order.

BY THE COURT:

Dated: October 1, 2018

Ivy S. Bernhardson
Chief Judge of District Court