

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN

DISTRICT COURT  
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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In re the Partial Closure of a Courtroom  
To Conduct GIFT Calendar Hearings

**ORDER**

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Whereas, the Fourth Judicial District Court has created a problem-solving court entitled “Gaining Independence for Females in Transition,” also known as the “GIFT Calendar,” which is a therapeutic court focused on reducing recidivism by providing intensive and varied services to women engaged in prostitution;

Whereas, the services provided to the women are tailored to each client, but can include mental health therapy, chemical dependency treatment, cognitive skills training, medical treatment, education and other support services;

Whereas, the court hearings on the GIFT Calendar involve candid discussion of the progress of the women in their rehabilitation;

Whereas, all the women participating in the GIFT Calendar have been sexually exploited by prostitution, and most if not all of the women have also suffered other trauma and abuse;

Whereas, the abuse and exploitation of the women participating in the GIFT Calendar has been perpetrated mostly, if not entirely, by men, some of whom still have influence over the women and accompany them to court;

Whereas, the nature of the GIFT Calendar requires a safe environment for the women participants, conducive to honest and open discussion;

Whereas, a safe environment cannot be established in court with the presence of men who may have exploited the women participants;

Whereas, there is no way to distinguish male spectators who are a positive influence from those who are a negative influence on the women participants;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED,

1. Male spectators shall be excluded from the GIFT Calendar courtroom while the GIFT Calendar is in session.
2. Male criminal justice professionals shall be allowed in the courtroom to carry out their duties as they relate to the GIFT Calendar.

BY THE COURT

DATED: January 6, 2013

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter A. Cahill", written over a horizontal line.

Peter A. Cahill  
Judge of District Court