

In Re: The matter of Pending MRSA Cases

**STANDING ORDER
REGARDING RESPONDENTS
WITH MRSA**

Because Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) is a highly contagious pathogen, causing healthcare-associated infections (estimated as infecting 46 out of every 1,000 patients), and

Because the Mental Health Court in Hennepin County periodically receives commitment petitions involving respondents who are hospital patients infected with MRSA, and

Because, despite diligent inquiry, this Court has yet to receive enough information on measures that will adequately protect court personnel, personnel of the Hennepin County Sheriff's Department and respondents in other cases from becoming infected,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that in all cases involving patients with MSRA

1. The Hennepin County Sheriff's Department shall not transport the patient to the Hennepin County Government Center for any trial or hearing.
2. The patient shall not appear for any trial or hearing at the Hennepin County Government Center regardless of whether or not other transportation is arranged.
3. Hearings will not be held at the hospital.
4. A trial or hearing may be held with the respondent appearing (from the hospital) by telephone or video. In such cases the defense attorney shall have the discretion of appearing from the hospital under the same conditions as set forth above, or in the courtroom itself.
5. No examiner shall be required to conduct his or her examination in person.
6. Unless a hearing is conducted as provided for in paragraph No. 4 above, or as otherwise agreed upon by all participants, all commitment hearings in cases involving MRSA shall be continued for good cause until such time as the respondent is ready to be released, medically, from the hospital.

These provisions shall remain in effect until further order of the presiding judge of Probate/Mental Health.

Dated: 8/29/07

BY THE COURT:



Peter Albrecht
Judge of District Court