

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUVENILE DIVISION

In re the application of Minnesota Rules
of Juvenile Protection Procedure and
Minnesota Statutes Ch. 260C

**STANDING ORDER REGARDING
PARTY STATUS OF CHILDREN AND
PARENTS AND RECEIPT OF DISCOVERY**

TO: All parties to matters filed in Hennepin County Juvenile Court under Minnesota Statutes
Ch. 260C

WHEREAS, the Hennepin County Attorney (HCAO), Public Defender (PDO) and Adult
Representation Services (ARS) collaborated to build a program that electronically exchanges
discovery in child protection cases;

WHEREAS, Hennepin Justice Integration Program (HJIP), a county-funded initiative, provided
additional resources to the Child Protection eDiscovery project in order to improve system
efficiencies for the justice partners;

WHEREAS, ARS is fiscally responsible for providing representation for all parents experiencing
indigence in child protection cases;

WHEREAS, ARS has contracted with the Indian Child Welfare Act Law Center (ICWALC) for
parent representation on some cases filed pursuant to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA);

WHEREAS, ARS has contracted with outside counsel for parent representation on conflict
cases;

WHEREAS, more than 90% of the child protection cases in Hennepin County are assigned to
ARS, PDO, ICWALC and ARS conflict contractors;

WHEREAS, as a matter of law, all PDO and ARS clients are eligible for party status as a matter
of right pursuant to Minn. R. Juv. Prot. Proc. 34.01;

WHEREAS, early access to discovery improves the quality of representation for parents and
children in child protection cases and avoids unnecessary delay;

WHEREAS, the PDO and ARS have requested that all clients who are eligible and appointed
representation be deemed parties in child protection cases; and

WHEREAS, the HCAO will provide discovery to PDO, ARS, and ARS contracted counsel and organizations appointed on child protection cases for parents and children in child protection cases.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. All children and parents who are deemed eligible for and appointed representation through ARS, PDO, or ARS contracted counsel shall automatically be deemed parties in child protection cases.
2. The HCAO shall provide discovery to PDO, ARS, and ARS contracted counsel and organizations appointed on child protection cases for parents and children in child protection cases.

BY THE COURT:

Date: _____

Juan Hoyos
Presiding Judge of District Court
Juvenile Division