



**Minnesota Department of Human Services
Direct Care and Treatment Administration
444 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155**

March 16, 2020

Dear Judges, County Attorneys, Defense Attorneys, Client Attorneys, Examiners, Special Review Board Members and Other Stakeholders in the Court Process:

In order to safeguard the health and well-being of the people we serve, our staff and the public, we are taking steps to protect against the spread of COVID-19. As recommended by the Centers for Disease Control, we will be practicing "social distancing" as a way to minimize physical contact between people and avoid contracting or spreading infection.

Therefore, as of March 13, DHS has suspended visiting and outings for people in our facilities, including at the:

- Forensic Mental Health Program (Minnesota Security Hospital) in St. Peter;
- Forensic Nursing Home in St. Peter;
- Minnesota Sex Offender Program in St. Peter and Moose Lake;
- Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center in Anoka;
- Community Behavioral Health Hospitals in Alexandria, Annandale, Baxter, Bemidji, Fergus Falls and Rochester;
- Community Addiction Recovery Enterprise facilities in Anoka, Carlton, Fergus Falls, St. Peter and Willmar;
- Minnesota Specialty Health System in Brainerd, Wadena, Willmar and St. Paul;
- Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Services in Willmar.

For those of you who currently have an in-person visit scheduled or need to make an appointment involving one of these facilities, please make arrangements to appear or visit by telephone, videoconference or other alternative means or postpone your appointment. Any examinations or meetings already scheduled to occur via telephone or videoconference will proceed as scheduled.

At this time, Commitment Appeal Panel hearings are proceeding as scheduled per the Court's Administrative Order, dated March 13, 2020. Court appearances will be via telephone or videoconference to the extent practicable in alignment with the Administrative Order.

Information about whom to contact at each of the facilities listed above is included below.

We appreciate your patience and flexibility as we navigate this evolving situation. The safety of our patients, clients and staff is our top priority and we will continue to monitor the situation daily and make adjustments as necessary. We will provide updates as they become available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marshall E. Smith". The signature is dark and somewhat faded, with some background noise or artifacts around it.

Marshall E. Smith, MHA, LNHA, FACHE
Health System CEO
Direct Care and Treatment Administration
Minnesota Department of Human Services

Enclosure: Contact Information for DCT Facilities