

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF RAMSEY

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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File No. 62-CV-21-5 \_\_\_\_\_

**Order Delegating Certain Warrant Resolutions  
To Court Administration**

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**WHEREAS**, it is the Court's responsibility to ensure the proper, safe, and orderly and fair administration of justice throughout the Second Judicial District, Ramsey County; and,

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States proclaimed a national emergency in response to the outbreak of the infectious disease known as COVID-19; and,

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Minnesota issued Emergency Executive Order 20-01, declaring a peacetime emergency in response to COVID-19; and,

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the Chief Justice of the State of Minnesota issued an Order governing the operations of the Minnesota Judicial Branch, continuing operations of the courts of the State of Minnesota under a statewide peacetime declaration of emergency; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Justice's Order required the prioritization of criminal cases and the use of remote technology to conduct most cases scheduled for hearing; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Second Judicial District Court Administration, was required to reschedule numerous cases and send new court-date notices to defendants and their counsel; and,

**WHEREAS**, many defendants did not receive their new court-date notices and consequently did not appear in court or respond to their new court dates; and,

**WHEREAS**, many defendants who received the new court-date notices did not have the technical capacity or necessary equipment to attend hearings remotely; and,

**WHEREAS**, consequently many failure-to-appear warrants were issued, and Ramsey County has over 10,000 outstanding arrest warrants; and,

**WHEREAS**, on February 11, 2021, the Second Judicial District Court, Ramsey County, Criminal Division, approved an Administrative Warrant Resolution Policy, establishing criteria for the administrative recall of certain previously issued warrants,

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

- A. Court Administration is hereby granted the authority to recall warrants as authorized under the Administrative Warrant Resolution Policy approved by the Criminal Division Bench on February 11, 2021, as follows:
1. Defendants may contact the court for warrant review by phone, email or in person, and must provide sufficient information to ensure identity and case of the individual.
  2. Court administration will recall warrants and set cases for hearing that meet the eligibility criteria:
    - a) Felony warrants issued for failure to appear for first appearance when issued as summons; or
    - b) Felony, Gross Misdemeanor and Misdemeanor warrants issued as Arrest and Release with a Court Date (ARC); or
    - c) Misdemeanor and Gross Misdemeanor warrants with bail set at \$500 or less.
  3. Court Administration will not resolve warrants that meet the following ineligibility requirements:
    - a) Felony and Gross Misdemeanor failure to appear for first appearance when issued as complaint and warrant.
    - b) Probation Violation warrants of any level of offense.
    - c) Warrants for cases that include any of the following charges:
      1. Domestic Assault under Minnesota Statute § 609.2242;
      2. Violation of domestic abuse no contact order under Minnesota Statute § 629.75;
      3. Violation of a Harassment/Restraining Order under Minnesota Statutes § 609.748; or
      4. Violation of Order for Protection under Minnesota Statute § 518B.01.
  4. Court Administration will schedule felony cases for First Appearance within 2 weeks of warrant resolution.
  5. Court Administration will schedule Misdemeanor and Gross Misdemeanor cases on the first available calendar but not less than 2 weeks from the date warrant is resolved.
- B. Court Administration shall collect data for all warrants resolved under this authority and provide statistical analysis to the Chief Judge, the Assistant Chief Judge, the Criminal Division Lead Judge, and the Pretrial Justice Committee Lead Judge upon request.

Dated: February 23, 2021

**BY THE COURT:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Castro', written over a horizontal line.

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Leonardo Castro  
Chief Judge  
Second Judicial District