

Hello, my name is (INSERT NAME) and I'm calling from Anderson, Niebuhr and Assoc. We are randomly selecting and calling adults across Minnesota to assess attitudes and opinions of the court system. This information will be used to help courts around the state improve the administration of justice. Please be assured that your individual answers will be kept in strictest confidence—nothing that you say will be identified with you in any way.

1. First, I would like to ask you some questions about your personal experiences with the court system. Have you ever served on a jury?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No (**SKIP TO Q2**)
 - c. Don't Know (**SKIPTO Q2**)
 - d. No Answer/Refuse (**SKIP TO Q2**)

- 1a. For what kind of case? Was it a: (**READ a. THROUGH c. ; CHECK ONE**)
 - a. Civil case,
 - b. Criminal case, or
 - c. Both Civil and criminal cases?
 - d. Don't Know
 - e. No Answer/Refuse

2. Have you ever been a defendant or a plaintiff in a court case?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No (**SKIP TO Q3**)
 - c. Don't Know (**SKIP TO Q3**)
 - d. No Answer/Refuse (**SKIP TO Q3**)

- 2a. What kind of case were you involved in? (**READ a THROUGH f.; SELECT ALL MENTIONED**)
 - a. Civil case
 - b. Criminal case
 - c. Small claims case (called conciliation court in Minnesota)
 - d. Family relations case
 - e. Juvenile delinquency case
 - f. Traffic court case
 - g. Something else (SPECIFY) _____
 - h. Don't Know
 - i. No Answer/Refuse

3. Have you ever testified as a witness in a court proceeding?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No (**SKIP TO Q4**)
 - c. Don't Know (**SKIP TO Q4**)
 - d. No Answer/Refuse (**SKIPTO Q4**)

3a. For what kind of case did you testify? **(READ a THROUGH f.; SELECT ALL MENTIONED)**

- a. _____ Civil case
- b. _____ Criminal case
- c. _____ Small claims case (called conciliation court in Minnesota)
- d. _____ Family relations case
- e. _____ Juvenile delinquency case
- f. _____ Traffic court case
- g. _____ Something else? (SPECIFY) _____
- h. _____ Don't Know
- i. _____ No Answer/Refuse

4. Now I am going to read a list of American institutions. Please tell me how much trust (1/2 sample) or confidence (1/2 sample) you have in each of these institutions. Tell me if you have a great deal of confidence/trust, some confidence/trust, only a little confidence/trust, or no confidence/trust at all?**(READ a. THROUGH h.; CIRCLE ONE FOR EACH)**

| | A Great <u>Deal</u> | <u>Some</u> | Only <u>A Little</u> | No trust/ <u>confidence</u> <u>at all</u> | Don't <u>Know</u> |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|---|----------------------|
| The first is: | | | | | |
| a. The public schools? | GD | S | L | N | DK |
| b. The Governor? | GD | S | L | N | DK |
| c. Your local police? | GD | S | L | N | DK |
| d. The media? | GD | S | L | N | DK |
| e. The medical profession? | GD | S | L | N | DK |
| f. The Minnesota State legislature? | GD | S | L | N | DK |
| g. The U.S. Supreme Court? | GD | S | L | N | DK |
| h. The Minnesota State Courts? | GD | S | L | N | DK |

5. Courts handle different kinds of cases. For example, there are civil cases, criminal cases and there are other cases such as small claims and family relations. Please tell me if you think the court's ability to handle each type of case is excellent, good, average, or poor. **(READ a. THROUGH e.; CIRCLE ONE FOR EACH)**

| | <u>Excellent</u> | <u>Good</u> | <u>Average</u> | <u>Poor</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> | <u>No Answer</u> |
|--|------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|
| The first is: | | | | | | |
| a. Civil cases such as personal injury lawsuits, malpractice claims, and landlord-tenant disputes? | E | G | A | P | DK | NA |
| b. Criminal cases, such as crimes of violence, robbery and shoplifting? | E | G | A | P | DK | NA |
| c. Small claims cases where you can be your own attorney? | E | G | A | P | DK | NA |
| d. Family relations cases, such as divorce and child custody? | E | G | A | P | DK | NA |

(CONTIUED)

- e. Juvenile delinquency cases, such as crimes of violence, burglary, and truancy? E G A P DK NA
- a. Child Protection cases such as child abuse and neglect? E G A P DK NA

6. Please tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree that the court treats the following groups fairly. **(ROTATE LIST, READ a. THROUGH k.; CIRCLE ONE FOR EACH)**

| | <u>Strongly Agree</u> | <u>Agree</u> | <u>Disagree</u> | <u>Strongly Disagree</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> | <u>No Answer</u> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| The first is: | | | | | | |
| a. White people? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| How about: | | | | | | |
| b. Men? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| c. Women? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| d. African Americans? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| e. Hispanics? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| f. Asian Americans? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| g. Native Americans? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| h. Non-English speaking people? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| i. Poor people? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| j. Middle class people? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| k. Wealthy people? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |

7. Now I'd like to ask how you feel about some other issues related to the **courts in your community**. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of these statements? Would you say you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree? **(READ a. THROUGH y.; CIRCLE ONE FOR EACH)**

| | <u>Strongly Agree</u> | <u>Agree</u> | <u>Disagree</u> | <u>Strongly Disagree</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> | <u>No Answer</u> |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| a. Courts protect people's constitutional rights? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| b. Courts are out-of-touch with what's going on in their communities? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| c. People involved in court cases understand the court's rulings? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| d. Courts make sure their orders are enforced? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| e. Juries are representative of the community where the court is located? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| f. Judges treat people with respect? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| g. Judges have the skills they need to do their job well? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| h. Judges are fair in deciding cases? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |

| | <u>Strongly Agree</u> | <u>Agree</u> | <u>Disagree</u> | <u>Strongly Disagree</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> | <u>No Answer</u> |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| i. Judges give enough attention to each individual case? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| j. The media's portrayal of the courts is mostly accurate? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| k. Legal technicalities often allow guilty people to go free? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| l. When a person sues a corporation, the courts generally favor the corporation over the person? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| m. Judges' decisions are influenced by the political parties in power? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| n. Elected judges are influenced by having to raise campaign funds? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| o. Courts try to ensure that individuals have access to an attorney? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| p. Even without an attorney, people are able to have a fair court hearing? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| q. The court system is easy to use? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| r. Courts are conveniently located? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| s. Courthouses are safe? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| t. Most people can afford to bring a case to court? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| u. Court cases are resolved in a timely manner? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| v. The court system efficiently handles cases from filing the case, to settlement or trial? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| w. Not enough court proceedings are open to the public? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| x. People who work for the court, such as court clerks, are helpful? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| y. People who work for the court, such as court clerks, are courteous? | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |

8. How much do you think the following factors contribute to the financial cost of going to court? Would you say each of these factors contributes a lot, some, a little, or not at all to the financial cost of going to court? **(READ a. THROUGH d.; CIRCLE ONE FOR EACH)**

| | <u>Contributes A lot</u> | <u>Contributes Some</u> | <u>Contributes A Little</u> | <u>Not At All</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| a. The cost of having a lawyer? | A | S | L | N | DK |
| b. Court fees? | A | S | L | N | DK |
| c. The time between when a monetary award is granted by the court and actually receiving the money? | A | S | L | N | DK |

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In order to ensure that I speak to people who are representative of all residents of Minnesota, I would like to ask you a few questions about yourself.

13. First, what is your age? _____
14. What is the highest grade level you have completed? **(DO NOT READ)**
- a. _____ Less than high school
 - b. _____ High school diploma or GED
 - c. _____ Some college or technical training school
 - d. _____ 4-year college degree
 - e. _____ Some graduate school
 - f. _____ Graduate or professional degree
 - g. _____ Don't know
 - h. _____ No Answer/Refused
15. What is your racial or ethnic identity?**(DO NOT READ; CHECK ONE)**
- a. _____ White, not Hispanic
 - b. _____ African American
 - c. _____ Hispanic/Latinos/Latinas
 - d. _____ Asian or Pacific Islander
 - e. _____ American Indian or Alaskan Native ◇ Do you live on a reservation? _____ Yes
 - f. _____ Other (Specify) _____ _____ No
 - g. _____ No Answer/Refused _____ Sometimes
16. What is your marital status? **(READ a. THROUGH e.; CHECK ONE)**
- a. _____ Married,
 - b. _____ Single,
 - c. _____ Living with a partner, but not married,
 - d. _____ Separated or divorced, or
 - e. _____ Widowed?
 - f. _____ No Answer/Refused
17. Are you currently employed?
- a. _____ Yes
 - b. _____ No **(Skip to Q19)**
18. In a typical week do you work outside of your home for more than 20 hours a week or 20 hours a week or less?
- a. _____ More than 20 hours a week
 - b. _____ 20 hours a week or less
 - c. _____ Depends
 - d. _____ Don't know
 - e. _____ Refused

19. In 1998, was your total household income before taxes: **(READ a. THROUGH j.; STOP WHEN THEY ANSWER)**

- a. _____ Less than \$10,000,
- b. _____ \$10,000 but less than \$20,00,
- c. _____ \$20,000 but less than \$30,000,
- d. _____ \$30,000 but less than \$40,000,
- e. _____ \$40,000 but less than \$50,000,
- f. _____ \$50,000 but less than \$60,000,
- g. _____ \$60,000 but less than \$70,000,
- h. _____ \$70,000 but less than \$80,000,
- i. _____ \$80,000 but less than \$120,000, or
- j. _____ More than \$120,000?
- k. _____ Don't know
- l. _____ Refused

That was my last question, I would like to thank you for your time and cooperation.

20. Respondent's gender: **(DO NOT ASK RESPONDENT)**

- a. _____ Male
- b. _____ Female