

MAR 31 2020

62-CV-20-5

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF RAMSEY

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
DECLARING CERTAIN
HOUSING/EVICTION MATTERS
NON-PUBLIC

WHEREAS, On March 13, 2020, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz declared a peacetime state of emergency due to the worldwide spread of COVID-19, also referred to as the Coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States also declared a nationwide state of emergency due to the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended several steps to help slow or prevent the spread of COVID-19. These steps include avoiding close contact with others, staggering work schedules, and limiting gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the Second Judicial District is taking necessary and reasonable steps to reduce potential exposure of persons to group settings; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court issued Administrative Order 20-8001, as amended on March 20, 2020, March 23, 2020, and March 26, 2020 (collectively "ADM20-8001"), directing Minnesota courts take action consistent with the Emergency Executive Order beginning March 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 484.60, subd. 3, the chief judge of the district has general administrative authority over the courts in the judicial district; and

WHEREAS, in response to the Governor's Executive Order 20-14, suspending evictions and execution of writs of recovery beginning no later than March 24, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., the Chief Justice modified the March 20, 2020 order governing continuing operations of the state's district and appellate courts by clarifying in part that effective as of March 23, 2020, hearings shall be held in the courtroom in housing/eviction matters only on an emergency basis pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 504B.321, subd. 2, when there is a showing of individual or public health or safety at risk, which includes eviction actions alleging a violation of Minn. Stat. § 504B.171, subd. 1. The Chief Justice has authorized local standing orders to effectuate this directive.

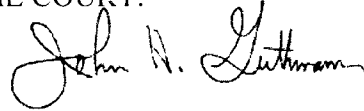
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Existing or newly filed residential housing/eviction matters shall be reviewed by a judge or judicial officer to determine if the case involves an emergency in which an individual or public health or safety risk exists or if the pleadings assert a violation of Minnesota Statutes § 504B.171, subd. 1.

2. If the judge or judicial officer determines that the case does not qualify for an emergency hearing, the matter shall not be accessible to the public and all case filings in said matter shall be designated confidential.
3. This Administrative Order remains in effect until such time as the Governor's Executive Order and the Chief Justice's Emergency Order ADM20-8001, as amended, have lapsed and the matter is scheduled by the court or other relief is ordered by the court.

Dated: March 31, 2020

BY THE COURT:



Guthmann, John (Judge)
Mar 31 2020 9:52 AM

John H. Guthmann
Chief Judge, Second Judicial District