

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
IN SUPREME COURT

C4-85-1848

OFFICE OF  
APPELLATE COURTS

OCT - 5 1998

**FILED**

**ORDER AUTHORIZING ACCESS TO  
RECORDS AND PROCEEDINGS OF  
RESOURCE GUIDELINES PILOT PROJECT  
TO IMPROVE COURT PRACTICE IN  
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CASES**

WHEREAS, the State Court Administrator has contracted with the National Center for Juvenile Justice to prepare an assessment of the pilot project being conducted in Hennepin and Dakota counties designed to implement the recommendations and protocols found in the *Resource Guidelines: Improved Court Practice in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases*, published by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (hereinafter "Resource Guidelines Pilot Project"); and

WHEREAS, court records and proceedings of the Resource Guidelines Pilot Project contain sensitive, confidential information, and the National Center for Juvenile Justice desires access to this information to complete the assessment; and

WHEREAS, the National Center for Juvenile Justice has agreed in writing not to disclose to any third party any information in the court records and proceedings of the Resource Guidelines Pilot Project from which the identity of any individual or other characteristic that could uniquely identify any individual is ascertainable; and

WHEREAS, sound public policy, reflected in Minnesota Statutes section 13.05, subdivision 7, supports disclosure of the Records pursuant to a nondisclosure agreement;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Rule 2 of the Rules of Public Access to Records of the Judicial Branch, and by virtue of and under the inherent power and statutory authority of the Minnesota Supreme Court to regulate public access to records maintained by the judicial branch, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the National Center for Juvenile Justice is granted access to the court records and proceedings of the Resource Guidelines Pilot Project in Hennepin and Dakota counties subject to the conditions set forth in state contract number 421461 the State Court Administrator and the National Center for Juvenile Justice. It shall not be a violation of this Order for a judge of district court participating in the Resource Guidelines Pilot Project to deny the National Center for Juvenile Justice access to any particular record or proceeding of the Resource Guidelines Pilot Project on a case-by-case or record-by-record basis.

Dated: September 30, 1998

BY THE COURT:



Kathleen A. Blatz  
Chief Justice