

STANDING ORDER

Re: Anoka Bench Policy Concerning Hearing Officer
Authority

WHEREAS, Minn. Rule Crim. P. 23.03 authorizes the district court to implement and operate violations bureau; AND

WHEREAS, at a meeting on December 1, 2023, the Anoka County Bench approved the establishment of a Hearing Officer program for municipalities that wish to refer cases to the Hearing Officer pursuant to written guidelines for resolving cases without a court hearing; AND

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to promulgate a standing order to reflect the delegated authority of hearing officers from the Court to act in accordance with the authority granted by individual jurisdictions within Anoka County.

NOW, THEREFORE, the court enters the following:

ORDER:

1. All persons hired by Anoka County District Court and designated as hearing officers shall be supervised by the Court Administrator in accordance with established personnel rules and policies.
2. Pursuant to established written guidelines provided by each municipality and other local jurisdictions within Anoka County that wish to refer cases to the Hearing Officer, applicable misdemeanor and petty misdemeanor cases may be resolved without a court hearing.
3. Under those guidelines, and subject to established internal written procedures, hearing officers are authorized to (i) reduce or suspend fines; (ii) dismiss parking, license plate and equipment citations; and (iii) refer defendants to local jurisdictions' programs to have their cases dismissed or prosecution deferred and dismissed by completing driver improvement classes or through satisfaction of other designated conditions (e.g. securing automobile insurance; obtaining a valid driver's license, etc.)

4. Persons issued a citation from a jurisdiction granting limited authority to hearing officers must have a hearing with a hearing officer before a court appearance on the citation occurs.
5. This Standing Order shall apply permanently until expressly superseded by another standing order.

BY THE COURT:

HON. KRISTIN C. LARSON
Chair, Anoka District Court Bench