

## CHAPTER 484

### DISTRICT COURTS

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#### 484.013 HOUSING CALENDAR CONSOLIDATION PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** (a) A program is established in the second and fourth judicial districts to consolidate the hearing and determination of matters related to residential rental housing and to ensure continuity and consistency in the disposition of cases.

(b) Outside the second and fourth judicial districts, a district court may establish the program described in paragraph (a) in counties that it specifies in the district.

Subd. 2. **Jurisdiction.** The housing calendar program may consolidate the hearing and determination of all proceedings under chapter 504B; criminal and civil proceedings related to violations of any state, county or city health, safety, housing, building, fire prevention or housing maintenance code; escrow of rent proceedings; and actions for rent abatement. A proceeding under sections 504B.281 to 504B.371 may not be delayed because of the consolidation of matters under the housing calendar program.

The program must provide for the consolidation of landlord-tenant damage actions and actions for rent at the request of either party. A court may not consolidate claims unless the plaintiff has met the applicable jurisdictional and procedural requirements for each cause of action. A request for consolidation of claims by the plaintiff does not require mandatory joinder of defendant's claims, and a defendant is not barred from raising those claims at another time or forum.

*[For text of subds 3 to 8, see M.S.1998]*

**History:** 1999 c 199 art 2 s 20; 1999 c 216 art 6 s 16,17

#### 484.014 HOUSING RECORDS; EXPUNGEMENT OF EVICTION INFORMATION.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For the purpose of this section, the following terms have the meanings given:

- (1) "expungement" means the removal of evidence of the court file's existence from the publicly accessible records;
- (2) "eviction case" means an action brought under sections 504B.281 to 504B.371; and
- (3) "court file" means the court file created when an eviction case is filed with the court.

Subd. 2. **Discretionary expungement.** The court may order expungement of an eviction case court file only upon motion of a defendant and decision by the court, if the court finds that the plaintiff's case is sufficiently without basis in fact or law, which may include lack of jurisdiction over the case, that expungement is clearly in the interests of justice and those interests are not outweighed by the public's interest in knowing about the record.

**History:** 1999 c 199 art 1 s 74; 1999 c 229 s 1

#### 484.64 FAMILY COURT DIVISION; SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT.

*[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1998]*

Subd. 3. **Chambers and supplies.** The board of county commissioners of Ramsey county shall provide suitable chambers and courtroom space, clerks, bailiffs, and other personnel to assist said judge, together with necessary library, supplies, stationery and other ex-

penses necessary thereto. The state shall provide referees, court reporters, law clerks, and guardian ad litem program coordinators and staff.

*[For text of subds 4 and 5, see M.S.1998]*

**History:** 1999 c 216 art 7 s 28

**NOTE:** Laws 1999, chapter 216, article 7, section 46, subdivision 3, provides specific effective dates for the state takeover of miscellaneous court costs under subdivision 3, as amended by Laws 1999, chapter 216, article 7, section 28.

#### 484.65 FAMILY COURT DIVISION; FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT.

*[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1998]*

**Subd. 3. Space; personnel; supplies.** The board of county commissioners of Hennepin county shall provide suitable chambers and courtroom space, clerks, bailiffs, and other personnel to assist said judge, together with necessary library, supplies, stationery and other expenses necessary thereto. The state shall provide referees, court reporters, law clerks, and guardian ad litem program coordinators and staff.

*[For text of subds 4 to 10, see M.S.1998]*

**History:** 1999 c 216 art 7 s 29

**NOTE:** Laws 1999, chapter 216, article 7, section 46, subdivision 3, provides specific effective dates for the state takeover of miscellaneous court costs under subdivision 3, as amended by Laws 1999, chapter 216, article 7, section 29.

#### 484.70 REFEREE POSITIONS, RULES.

**Subdivision 1. Appointment.** The chief judge of the judicial district may appoint one or more suitable persons to act as referees. Referees shall hold office at the pleasure of the judges of the district court and shall be learned in the law, except that persons holding the office of referee on January 1, 1983, may continue to serve under the terms and conditions of their appointment. All referees are subject to the administrative authority and assignment power of the chief judge of the district as provided in section 484.69, subdivision 3, and are not limited to assignment to family, probate, juvenile or special term court.

*[For text of subds 6 and 7, see M.S.1998]*

**History:** 1999 c 196 art 1 s 1

#### 484.702 EXPEDITED CHILD SUPPORT HEARING PROCESS.

**Subdivision 1. Creation; scope.** (a) The supreme court shall create an expedited child support hearing process to establish, modify, and enforce child support; and enforce maintenance, if combined with child support. The process must be designed to handle child support and paternity matters in compliance with federal law.

(b) All proceedings establishing, modifying, or enforcing support orders; and enforcing maintenance orders, if combined with a support proceeding, must be conducted in the expedited process if the case is a IV-D case. Cases that are not IV-D cases may not be conducted in the expedited process.

(c) This section does not prevent a party, upon timely notice to the public authority, from commencing an action or bringing a motion in district court for the establishment, modification, or enforcement of support, or enforcement of maintenance orders if combined with a support proceeding, where additional issues involving domestic abuse, establishment or modification of custody or visitation, or property issues exist as noticed by the complaint, motion, counter motion, or counter action.

(d) At the option of the county, the expedited process may include contempt actions or actions to establish parentage.

(e) The expedited process should meet the following goals:

(1) be streamlined and uniform statewide and result in timely and consistent issuance of orders;

(2) be accessible to the parties without the need for an attorney and minimize litigation;

(3) be a cost-effective use of limited financial resources; and

(4) comply with applicable federal law.

(f) For purposes of this section, "IV-D case" has the meaning given in section 518.54.

**Subd. 2. Administration.** (a) The state court administrator shall provide for the administration of the expedited child support hearing process in each judicial district.

(b) Until June 30, 2000, the office of administrative hearings and the state court administrator may enter into contracts to provide one or more administrative law judges to serve as child support magistrates and for administrative and case management support. The title to all personal property used in the administrative child support process mutually agreed upon by the office of administrative hearings and the office of the state court administrator must be transferred to the state court administrator for use in the expedited child support process.

**Subd. 3. Appointment of child support magistrates.** The chief judge of each judicial district may appoint one or more suitable persons to act as child support magistrates for the expedited child support hearing process, with the confirmation of the supreme court. A child support magistrate appointed to serve in the expedited child support process, whether hired on a full-time, part-time, or contract basis, is a judicial officer under section 43A.02, subdivision 25, and is an employee of the state under section 3.732 for purposes of section 3.736 only.

**Subd. 4. Training and qualifications of child support magistrates.** The supreme court may:

(1) provide training for individuals who serve as child support magistrates for the expedited child support hearing process;

(2) establish minimum qualifications for child support magistrates; and

(3) establish a policy for evaluating and removing child support magistrates.

**Subd. 5. Rules.** The supreme court, in consultation with the conference of chief judges, shall adopt rules to implement the expedited child support hearing process under this section.

**History:** 1999 c 196 art 1 s 2

#### 484.72 ELECTRONIC RECORDING OF COURT PROCEEDINGS.

*[For text of subs 1 to 5, see M.S.1998]*

**Subd. 6. Expedited child support process.** Notwithstanding subdivisions 1 and 4, hearings and proceedings conducted in the expedited child support process under section 484.702 may be reported by use of electronic recording equipment provided that the equipment meets the minimum standards promulgated by the state court administrator. Electronic recording equipment must be operated and monitored by a person who meets the minimum qualifications promulgated by the state court administrator.

**History:** 1999 c 196 art 1 s 3

#### 484.73 JUDICIAL ARBITRATION.

*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1998]*

**Subd. 2. Exclusions.** Judicial arbitration may not be used to dispose of matters relating to guardianship, conservatorship, or civil commitment, matters within the juvenile court jurisdiction involving children in need of protection or services or delinquency, matters involving termination of parental rights under sections 260C.301 to 260C.328, or matters arising under sections 518B.01, 626.557, or 144.651 to 144.652.

*[For text of subs 3 and 4, see M.S.1998]*

**History:** 1999 c 139 art 4 s 2