



DIRECT CARE & TREATMENT – FORENSIC SERVICES

September 5, 2019

The Honorable Carolina Lamas
Judge of the [Fourth] Judicial District Court – Hennepin County
Hennepin County Government Center

RE: *State v. Ifrah Abdull Hassan*, Rule 20.01, subd. 7 competency evaluation
Court Files: 27-CR-18-19274

Dear Judge Lamas,

I am the Forensic Coordinator for DHS Direct Care and Treatment- Forensic Services, and I write regarding the pending competency evaluation for the Defendant in the above-referenced cases. Defendant was found incompetent to participate in his defense under Minnesota Rule of Criminal Procedure 20.01 on 8/28/2018, and he was subsequently civilly committed. Minnesota Rule of Criminal Procedure 20.01, subd. 7, provides in part that the head of the institution to which a defendant is committed must report to the court periodically, not less than six months, on the defendant's mental condition with an opinion as to competency to proceed.

The DHS Forensic Evaluation Department, on behalf of DHS and the head of the institution to which Defendant is committed, will be conducting the subd. 7 competency evaluation in this matter. Dr. Jason Lewis is assigned to conduct this evaluation. As part of the evaluation, Dr. Lewis will need to review any records relating to clinical treatment Defendant has received since his return to the community. Unfortunately, Minnesota and federal privacy law do not allow Dr. Lewis access to treatment records absent a court order under these circumstances. Defendant's treatment records are relevant to Dr. Lewis's review and evaluation and will assist him in providing a more comprehensive opinion regarding Defendant's current mental condition and competency status.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the attached proposed order for the release of medical records be signed and returned to me to allow the disclosure of any treatment records to my office. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Kelly Bechen, Forensic Coordinator
Direct Care & Treatment - Forensic Services
100 Freeman Drive
St. Peter, MN 56082
Phone: 507-985-2007

Copies: Hennepin County Court Administration
Hennepin, Assistant Hennepin County Attorney
Lisa Skrzeczkoski Counsel for Ifrah Hassan