



DIRECT CARE & TREATMENT – FORENSIC SERVICES

January 27, 2022

The Honorable Lisa K. Janzen
Judge of the Fourth Judicial District Court – Hennepin County
Hennepin County District Court
Hennepin County Government Center
300 S. 6th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55487

RE: *State v. Daniel Lamar Ford*, Rule 20.01, subd. 7 competency evaluation
Court Files: 27-CR-21-20637; 27-CR-20-18844; 27-CR-20-14068; 27-CR-20-256

Dear Judge Janzen,

I am the Court Liaison 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 October 19, 2021, and they were 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. In order to provide a comprehensive evaluation, the assigned examiner will need to review records relating to clinical treatment Defendant has received or is receiving. State and federal data privacy laws do not allow access to treatment records absent a court order. Defendant's treatment records are relevant to the examiner's review and evaluation and will assist them 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 treatment records to my office. Additionally, we request this language be included in all orders finding incompetence moving forward, as this would save time and resources for future subd. 7 competency evaluations completed by Forensic Services. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Amanda Burg, Court Liaison
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