



MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH
MINNESOTA JUDICIAL CENTER
25 REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD.
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155

JEFFREY SHORBA
STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

(651) 296-2474
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March 31, 2020

Kevin A. Sieben
Sieben Edmunds Miller PLLC
2299 Waters Drive
Mendota Heights, MN 55120

Dear Mr. Sieben:

I write in response to your March 26, 2020 letter to Chief Justice Gildea, asking to authorize private defense attorneys to have remote access to documents.

The remote access portal, Minnesota Public Access (MPA), is available at <https://pa.courts.state.mn.us>, and remains fully operational. As you know, private defense attorneys can use MPA to look up any case's Register of Actions if they have the case number. (To comply with Rule of Public Access 8, subd. 2(c), criminal cases will not show up in response to name searches in MPA unless there has been a conviction in the case.) Remotely-accessible Registers of Actions do not include documents, but they do include a list of all documents filed, and a list of all hearings scheduled. If private defense attorneys cannot obtain case numbers from their clients, they can obtain them by contacting the prosecutor's office.

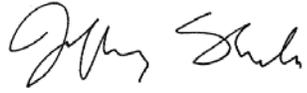
Once a private defense attorney has been retained and added as attorney-of-record and is signed up for e-service, the prosecutor's office will start e-serving them with documents filed in the case, and the court will start sending the defense attorney all court notices or orders either through eFS or by email. Access to court filed documents in your cases remain the same, as prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I understand that the temporary restrictions on access to courthouses mean that attorneys are temporarily unable to use public access terminals to review case records. However, the courts must prioritize limited technological resources during this pandemic, and it will not be possible to expand Minnesota Government Access (MGA) to private defense attorneys. I understand that the COVID-19 pandemic poses challenges for litigants, just as it poses challenges for the operations of the courts.

Thank you again for your letter and please feel free to contact me again as we proceed through

these uncertain times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Shorba". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeff" and last name "Shorba" clearly distinguishable.

Jeff Shorba
State Court Administrator