

STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF RAMSEY

FILED  
Court Administrator

JUN 21 2011

By  Deputy

DISTRICT COURT

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

In re Temporary Funding of Core )  
Functions of the Executive Branch )  
Of the State of Minnesota )

Case Type: Civil

Court File No. 62-cv-11-5203

**AFFIDAVIT OF DONNA DUNN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
MINNESOTA COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT**

Affiant Donna Dunn, first being duly sworn, hereby states:

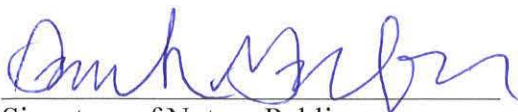
- 1) I am the Executive Director of the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA) located at 161 St. Anthony Ave, Suite 1001, St. Paul, MN 55103.
- 2) MNCASA's mission is to serve as a voice for victims/survivors, sexual assault victim advocacy service programs and allies committed to ending sexual violence.
- 3) MNCASA is a nonprofit organization representing 85 sexual assault victim advocacy programs and allies statewide. MNCASA receives funding from the Minnesota Departments of Public Safety and Health among other public and private entities.
- 4) According to the Minnesota Department of Health, sexual violence affects 61,000 people in Minnesota annually. *Costs of Sexual Violence in Minnesota* (July 2007), available at [http://www.pire.org/documents/mn\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.pire.org/documents/mn_brochure.pdf) (last visited June 17, 2010).
- 5) I note the filings of the Attorney General and the Governor in the above-named matter and submit this affidavit to explain the potential impact of a state government shutdown on victims of sexual violence.

- 6) Minnesota's sexual assault victim advocacy service programs receive state funding through the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs.
- 7) The list of "Recommended Priority One and Priority Two Critical Services" submitted by the Governor in the "Response of the Governor to the Petition of the Attorney General" does not include services to victims of sexual violence in the public safety category. It only includes "reparations, payments to crime victims," which are important but are not among the first priorities in the sexual assault emergency response.
- 8) Minnesota's sexual assault victim advocacy service programs are critical to public safety. Often advocates are first responders to crimes of sexual violence because victims do not always report to law enforcement immediately or go directly to a hospital for care. Many victims call an advocate first for help or meet an advocate at the hospital based on a healthcare provider's referral.
- 9) Sexual assault victim advocacy service programs provide emergency assistance to victims of sexual assault. This assistance includes operation of a 24-hour crisis line, accompaniment to the hospital for a sexual assault medical forensic exam, safety planning including referrals to emergency shelters, help with reporting the crime to law enforcement if the victim elects to do so, and guidance with filing civil protective orders. The assistance is confidential except in matters involving child abuse and neglect.
- 10) Advocates also provide support to victims who have cases moving through the judicial process and connect victims with other community resources such as benefits, housing, legal aid, mental health and medical services, and more. Overall, advocates serve as guides through the many systems with which a victim will engage and provide crucial ongoing emotional support in response to a traumatic event.


11) Many sexual assault advocacy services programs will be forced to cut back on their services or stop delivering services altogether during a shutdown. This loss of services will gravely harm victims of sexual violence. Without the availability of 24-hour emergency assistance, victims will be left without access to critical immediate support, information, and services. A victim may not be ready to contact law enforcement or fear doing so for a variety of reasons. Further, a victim may not be aware of the importance of obtaining a timely sexual assault forensic exam for evidence collection purposes (the timeframe ranges from 72 to 120 hours, depending on the hospital). Crucial evidence will be lost and medical needs will go unaddressed. And finally, a victim in a dangerous situation may be too intimidated by the assailant and the court process to seek a civil protective order without the help of an advocate. On a related point, shelters are not included on the Governor's public safety priority list and I believe this is another significant omission.

12) Additionally, sexual assault advocacy programs will perform a critical role for victims during a shutdown because other government operations will be closed or operating at diminished capacity. Advocates will help prioritize a victim's needs according to what services remain accessible in the shutdown period.

Further Affiant sayeth not.



Signature of Notary Public

  
Donna Dunn, Executive Director  
Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2011.



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**AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY U.S. MAIL**

Nancy Beebes, being duly sworn, hereby states that on the 17 day of June, 2011 she has served the attached Affidavit of Donna Dunn, Executive Director of the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault, by depositing in the United States mail a true and correct copy thereof, properly enveloped, with first class postage prepaid and addressed to the individuals named herein.

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St. Paul, MN 55155-1609

Nancy Beebes  
Signature

[Signature]  
Signature of Notary Public

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2011.

