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**DATE:** November 15, 2016

**TO:** Secretary of the Senate  
Chief Clerk, House of Representatives  
Legislative Reference Library

**RE:** Minn. Stat. §§ 626A.17, subd. 3, 626A.42, subd. 5(b)  
Report to Legislature by the State Court Administrator

Minnesota Statutes chapter 626A governs the application for and issuance of warrants and orders for the interception of communications, the use of pen register, trap and trace, and mobile tracking devices, and for electronic device location information.

Minn. Stat. § 626A.17, subd. 1, requires that within 30 days after the expiration of an order granting or denying an application under chapter 626A, or each extension thereof, or the denial of an order approving an interception or the use of a pen register, trap and trace device, or mobile tracking device, the issuing or denying judge shall report to the state court administrator:

- (1) the fact that an order or extension was applied for;
- (2) the kind of order or extension applied for;
- (3) the fact that the order or extension was granted as applied for, was modified, or was denied;
- (4) the period of interceptions or use of a pen register, trap and trace device, or mobile tracking device authorized by the order, and the number and duration of any extensions of the order;
- (5) the offense specified in the order or application, or extension of an order;
- (6) the identity of the applying investigative or law enforcement officer and agency making the application and the person authorizing the application; and
- (7) the nature of the facilities from which or the place where communications were to be intercepted or activity under the order was to be carried out.

Similarly, Minn. Stat. § 626A.42, subd. 5(a), requires that for applications for electronic device location information tracking warrants under section 626A.42, the issuing or denying judge shall report to the state court administrator:

- (1) the fact that a tracking warrant or extension was applied for;
- (2) the fact that the warrant or extension was granted as applied for, was modified, or was denied;
- (3) the period of collection authorized by the warrant, and the number and duration of any extensions of the warrant;
- (4) the offense specified in the warrant or application, or extension of a warrant;
- (5) whether the collection required contemporaneous monitoring of an electronic device's location; and
- (6) the identity of the applying investigative or peace officer and agency making the application and the person authorizing the application.

Minn. Stat. §§ 626A.17, subd. 3, and 626A.42, subd. 5(b), require the State Court Administrator (SCAO) on or before November 15 of each even-numbered year to file with the legislature a report concerning (1) all warrants and orders authorizing the interception of communications and the use of a pen register, trap and trace device, mobile tracking device, or other electronic or mechanical device, and all tracking warrants authorizing the collection of location information during the two previous calendar years and (2) all applications that were denied during the two previous calendar years. Each report shall include a summary and analysis of the data required to be filed. Section 626A.42, which requires reporting on electronic device location information warrants, took effect on August 1, 2014, during this reporting period. The reports required under sections 626A.17 and 626A.42 were combined for purposes of this year's report. The required data is presented in Tables 1 – 6 on pages 4 and 5 of this report.

During the reporting period, the majority of warrants/orders reported to SCAO authorized the installation of pen register and trap and trace devices, the tracking of incoming and outgoing calls and/or texts, and/or the tracking of electronic device location information simultaneously. Those warrants/orders are identified in Table 2, "Kind of Warrant/Order," as "Pen Register, Trap and Trace, Electronic Tracking." Warrants authorizing the use of multiple technologies under chapter 626A are considered to be governed by all applicable statutes simultaneously. All of the warrants authorizing the installation of pen register and trap and trace devices, and/or the tracking of incoming and outgoing calls and/or texts, as well as the tracking of electronic device location information are presumptively sealed under Minn. Stat. § 626A.37, subd. 4. Additionally, as required by section 626A.08, subdivision 2, applications made and warrants issued under chapter 626A are required to be sealed by the judge and may only be disclosed upon a showing of good cause before a judge of the district court.

In order to comply with the reporting requirement in section 626A.42, warrants issued on or after August 1, 2014, that authorized only the tracking of electronic device location information are identified separately in Table 2, "Kind of Warrant/Order," as "Electronic Tracking." Although the warrants are identified separately as "Electronic Tracking" warrants, SCAO did not receive any reports of warrants for contemporaneous monitoring of electronic device location information that did not invoke other applicable provisions of chapter 626A, most commonly Minn. Stat. § 626A.37, subd. 4, or of federal law. SCAO has not identified any warrant under seal during this reporting time period that is governed solely by 626A.42 and that was required

by statute to be unsealed after a certain period of time.<sup>1</sup> As stated above, warrants citing other governing law are considered to be governed by all applicable statutes simultaneously, and as required by sections 626A.37, subd. 4, and 626A.08, subd. 2, applications made and warrants issued under chapter 626A are sealed.

As noted on previous reports, SCAO's reports reflect only information received from the district courts concerning warrants issued. No denials of applications for a warrant or order were reported to SCAO. During this reporting time period, a new reporting method was instituted that improved the accuracy, completeness, and quality of the reported data. Any increase in the number of warrants reported for this time period likely reflects an increase in the completeness of the reporting, rather than an actual increase in the number of warrants issued.

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<sup>1</sup> Warrants that seek electronic device location information records from a provider for a period of time in the past, as opposed to contemporaneous monitoring for a period of time in the future, are typically filed in the court's public criminal search warrant file after execution and are never filed under seal. Although it is not clear, warrants that seek provider records regarding electronic device location information may arguably be governed by section 626A.42; however, because these warrants are not captioned as section 626A warrants, and are filed as public criminal search warrants after execution, they are not identified as reportable under section 626A.42 and are not reflected in this report.

**Table 1. Warrants issued under Minn. Stat. Chapter 626A, by Judicial District, 2014-2015.**

Judicial District	Total Count
1	54
2	520
3	12
4	1066
5	15
6	59
7	22
8	3
9	25
10	44
Total	1820

**Table 2. Warrants issued under Minn. Stat. Chapter 626A, by kind of warrant/order, 2014-2015.**

Kind of Warrant/Order	Total Count
Pen Register, Trap and Trace, Electronic Tracking	1260
Pen Register, Trap and Trace	35
Electronic Tracking	89
Mobile Tracking	436

**Table 3. Warrants issued under Minn. Stat. Chapter 626A, by communication mode, 2014-2015.**

Communication Mode Tracked	Total Count
Phone	1202
Motor Vehicle	436
Social Media	182

**Table 4. Warrants issued under Minn. Stat. Chapter 626A, by offense specified in the order or application, 2014-2015.**

Offense	Total Count
Narcotics	758
Homicide	147
Sex Trafficking & Prostitution	44
Criminal Sex Conduct & Registration	162
Kidnapping	5
Assault	93
Burglary	66
Robbery	92
Theft	114
Weapons	87

<b>Offense</b>	<b>Total Count</b>
Other <sup>2</sup>	209
Unspecified to SCAO <sup>3</sup>	43

**Table 5. Warrants issued under Minn. Stat. Chapter 626A, by duration specified in the order, 2014-2015.**

<b>Order Duration</b>	<b>Total Count</b>
60	1653
90	67
Other	55
Unspecified to SCAO	45

**Table 6. Warrants issued under Minn. Stat. Chapter 626A, by type of investigative or law enforcement agency making the application, 2014-2015.**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Total Count</b>
Local Law Enforcement	804
Sheriff	350
State Agency	148
Federal	482
Unspecified to SCAO	36

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<sup>2</sup> Examples of “Other” Offenses include: Terroristic threats; Deprivation of custodial or parental rights; Fugitive/Escapee; Warrant for arrest; Warrant relating to locating witnesses.

<sup>3</sup> Data included in this report was provided to the State Court Administrator’s Office (SCAO) by individual judicial districts. A small number of warrants reported to SCAO did not specify one or more of the required pieces of data.