



OFFICE OF THE SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ATTORNEY

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Rubin reviewing potential effects of ruling on civil commitments

In a decision released today, U.S. District Court Judge Donovan Frank has determined that the Minnesota Sex Offender Program and its governing civil commitment statutes are unconstitutional.

In light of that ruling, St. Louis County Attorney Mark Rubin is reviewing the potential effects of the decision which effects the state's most dangerous sex offenders. In a 76-page decision, Frank wrote: "The stark reality is that there is something very wrong with the state's method of dealing with sex offenders in a program that has never fully discharged anyone committed to its detention facilities in Moose Lake and St. Peter since its inception in 1994."

"Having worked with Judge Frank when he was an assistant St. Louis County Attorney and seeing his work after he advanced to a judge in the state and federal courts, I have the upmost respect for his judicial wisdom," Rubin said.

Frank ordered that a "Remedies Phase" pre-hearing conference be held on Aug. 10, where all the stakeholders, including state legislative and executive leadership, will be called to fashion suitable remedies to be presented to the court.

"The finding that some aspects of the civil commitment of predatory sex offenders are unconstitutional is unfortunate, but not surprising," Rubin said. "The State of Minnesota has a daunting task ahead. I want to stress that we are confident that the individuals that St. Louis County has committed to the Minnesota Sex Offender Program have committed serious sex crimes and I would expect them to be among the least likely to be released to the community anytime soon."

Currently 714 individuals are committed in the program with a projection of 1,215 committed by 2022.

"While we will carefully review the court's decision to determine the effect this ruling will have on future cases, keeping the public safe will continue to be our utmost concern," Rubin said.

