



*Resolution  
of the  
Board of County Commissioners  
St. Louis County, Minnesota*

*Adopted on: February 28, 2006*

*Resolution No. 143*

*Offered by Commissioner: Fink*

WHEREAS, on behalf of the taxpayers of St. Louis County, the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners continually seeks ways to keep the cost of county government as cost effective as possible; and

WHEREAS, the cost of St. Louis County government is significantly affected by mandates from the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Legislature in 2005 passed legislation (M.S. 6.79) which allows local governments to file resolutions with the State Auditor which either object to particular state mandates or make recommendations for reforming particular state mandates; and

WHEREAS, the State Auditor has encouraged local governments to submit mandate reform proposals to her office and has expressed a willingness to partner with local governments in achieving those reforms;

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota has been involved in the systematic shifting of costs to County property taxpayers for obligations which are rightly the responsibility of the State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners hereby submits to the State Auditor a certified copy of this resolution and the list of mandates, along with statute citations and comments, as candidates for repeal;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners requests that the State Auditor take any measures available to aid the repeal of these mandates.

Commissioner Fink moved the adoption of the Resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote:

Yeas - Commissioners Fink, O'Neil, Kron, Forsman, Raukar, and Chair Nelson - 6

Nays - None

Out of Room - Commissioner Sweeney - 1

**STATE OF MINNESOTA**

Office of County Auditor, ss.  
County of St. Louis

I, **DONALD DICKLICH**, Auditor of the County of St. Louis, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in my office on the 28th day of February, A.D. 2006, and that this is a true and correct copy.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE at Duluth, Minnesota, this 28th day of February, A.D., 2006

DONALD DICKLICH, COUNTY AUDITOR

By

Deputy Auditor/Clerk of County Board

## **Pre-petition Screenings for Commitments – MS 253B.07**

**Pre-petition screenings for commitments are 100% county dollars. Eliminate or fund this responsibility.**

253B.07 Judicial commitment; preliminary procedures.

Subdivision 1. Prepetition screening.

(a) Prior to filing a petition for commitment of or early intervention for a proposed patient, an interested person shall apply to the designated agency in the county of the proposed patient's residence or presence for conduct of a preliminary investigation, except when the proposed patient has been acquitted of a crime under section [611.026](#) and the county attorney is required to file a petition for commitment. The designated agency shall appoint a screening team to conduct an investigation. The petitioner may not be a member of the screening team. The investigation must include:

(i) a personal interview with the proposed patient and other individuals who appear to have knowledge of the condition of the proposed patient. If the proposed patient is not interviewed, specific reasons must be documented;

(ii) identification and investigation of specific alleged conduct which is the basis for application;

(iii) identification, exploration, and listing of the specific reasons for rejecting or recommending alternatives to involuntary placement;

(iv) in the case of a commitment based on mental illness, the following information, if it is known or available, that may be relevant to the administration of neuroleptic medications, including the existence of a declaration under section [253B.03](#), subdivision 6d, or a health care directive under chapter 145C or a guardian, conservator, proxy, or agent with authority to make health care decisions for the proposed patient; information regarding the capacity of the proposed patient to make decisions regarding administration of neuroleptic medication; and whether the proposed patient is likely to consent or refuse consent to administration of the medication;

(v) seeking input from the proposed patient's health plan company to provide the court with information about services the enrollee needs and the least restrictive alternatives; and

(vi) in the case of a commitment based on mental illness, information listed in clause (iv) for other purposes relevant to treatment.

(b) In conducting the investigation required by this subdivision, the screening team shall have access to all relevant medical records of proposed patients currently in treatment facilities. The interviewer shall inform the proposed patient that any information provided by the proposed patient may be included in the prepetition screening report and may be considered in the commitment proceedings. Data collected pursuant to this clause shall be considered private data on individuals. The prepetition screening report is not admissible as evidence except by agreement of counsel or as permitted by this chapter or the rules of court and is not admissible in any court proceedings unrelated to the commitment proceedings.

(c) The prepetition screening team shall provide a notice, written in easily understood language, to the proposed patient, the petitioner, persons named in a declaration under chapter 145C or section [253B.03](#), subdivision 6d, and, with the proposed patient's consent, other interested parties. The team shall ask the patient if the patient wants the notice read and shall read the notice to the patient upon request. The notice must contain information regarding the process, purpose, and legal effects of

civil commitment and early intervention. The notice must inform the proposed patient that:

(1) if a petition is filed, the patient has certain rights, including the right to a court-appointed attorney, the right to request a second examiner, the right to attend hearings, and the right to oppose the proceeding and to present and contest evidence; and

(2) if the proposed patient is committed to a state regional treatment center or group home, the patient may be billed for the cost of care and the state has the right to make a claim against the patient's estate for this cost.

The ombudsman for mental health and mental retardation shall develop a form for the notice which includes the requirements of this paragraph.

(d) When the prepetition screening team recommends commitment, a written report shall be sent to the county attorney for the county in which the petition is to be filed. The statement of facts contained in the written report must meet the requirements of subdivision 2, paragraph (b).

(e) The prepetition screening team shall refuse to support a petition if the investigation does not disclose evidence sufficient to support commitment. Notice of the prepetition screening team's decision shall be provided to the prospective petitioner and to the proposed patient.

(f) If the interested person wishes to proceed with a petition contrary to the recommendation of the prepetition screening team, application may be made directly to the county attorney, who shall determine whether or not to proceed with the petition. Notice of the county attorney's determination shall be provided to the interested party.

(g) If the proposed patient has been acquitted of a crime under section [611.026](#), the county attorney shall apply to the designated county agency in the county in which the acquittal took place for a preliminary investigation unless substantially the same information relevant to the proposed patient's current mental condition, as could be obtained by a preliminary investigation, is part of the court record in the criminal proceeding or is contained in the report of a mental examination conducted in connection with the criminal proceeding. If a court petitions for commitment pursuant to the Rules of Criminal or Juvenile Procedure or a county attorney petitions pursuant to acquittal of a criminal charge under section [611.026](#), the prepetition investigation, if required by this section, shall be completed within seven days after the filing of the petition.