

Minnesota Government Shutdown: Summary of Judge Gearin's June 29 Order

July 01, 2011 by [Thomas J. Hanson](#)

On Wednesday, June 29, Ramsey County District Court Judge Kathleen Gearin issued her ruling on what government services would continue absent appropriations passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor before the beginning of the 2012-2013 biennium on Friday, July 1. In her ruling, Judge Gearin construed her power to order government spending narrowly and largely adopted Governor Mark Dayton's proposed list of critical services. Judge Gearin's order with the list of services can be found with the other pleadings in the case [here](#).

The first major category of services covered in Judge Gearin's order are those programs that are covered under agreements between Minnesota and the Federal Government. These programs are:

- Medical Assistance;
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; and
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families.

Judge Gearin ruled that the continuation of these programs is necessary to "ensure the health, safety and welfare of Minnesota citizens".

The second broad category of services covered includes programs considered core services under the Minnesota and United States Constitutions. These include:

- Basic custodial care for residents of state correctional facilities, regional treatment centers, nursing homes, veterans' homes, and residential academies and other similar state-operated services
- Maintenance of public safety and immediate public health concerns
- Provision of benefit payments and medical services to individuals
- Preservation of the essential elements of the financial systems of the government
- Necessary administration and supportive services, including but not limited to computer system maintenance, internet security, issuance of payments
- Payments of state aid to cities that have been lawfully appropriated
- Funding for education required by the Minnesota Constitution
- The care of animals at the Minnesota Zoo and preserving the safety and security of zoo property

Judge Gearin also appointed Retired Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court Kathleen Blatz as the Special Master. The Special Master is appointed to create a process to resolve funding requests. She will begin hearing such requests on July 1 at 8:00 am.