

Irene Gomez-Bethke Papers.

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CHILD ABUSE IN HENNEPIN COUNTY

Child abuse is a very emotional and sensitive issue. It is emotional because child abuse offends our most basic sensibilities, and yet it is sensitive because the solutions often intrude upon the family unit. While government must act to protect abused and neglected children, it must also respect the privacy of families who are raising their children in a safe and healthy environment. It is in this context that child abuse must be examined.

Is Child Abuse Increasing?

Reported cases of child abuse are increasing. The statistics indicate that 427 children were reported as abused in Hennepin County in 1976, compared with 298 reported cases in 1975. The 427 reported cases represent nearly half of all the cases reported in Minnesota last year. These comparisons must be interpreted carefully, however, in view of improved reporting in Hennepin County (at least partially brought about by changes in the child abuse reporting law) and in view of spotty reporting elsewhere in the state. Of the 1976 Hennepin County cases, 317 children were reported as physically abused; the remainder were reported to be sexually abused.

The abused children are of all ages, races and income groups, male children were slightly more likely to be physically abused than females and female children were much more likely to be sexually abused. Most abused children were returned to the care of their families. Fewer than 12% were removed even temporarily from their families. Four children died from abuse. In no case were parental rights terminated.

Who's To Blame?

Nearly everyone has been blamed for the failures of the child protection "system". State law has been criticized for its vague definition of child abuse and physical abuse. This vagueness is compounded by court decisions which have not established any clear standards of abuse or neglect, but have instead continued adherence to the legal doctrine of parental rights.

Hennepin County Child Protection Services (CPS) has often been criticized for protecting the family at the expense of the child, and has been criticized for its use of the "social work model" which gives the social worker the primary decision making responsibility. CPS workers have in turn complained of being "burned out" by excessive case loads and have criticized the County Board for failing to provide adequate resources and personnel to the unit.

Various police departments in Hennepin County have been criticized for refusing, in some cases, to place temporary holds on hospitalized children to prevent them from being returned to their parents or guardians. Police have also been criticized for lack of sensitivity toward the abused child's family.

Hennepin County Juvenile Court has been criticized for sending abused children back to their families again and again. The court has in turn blamed the principle of parental rights strongly embedded in case law, and has blamed CPS for failing to explore all the alterntives for problem families.

The entire system has been criticized by the minority community which sees the removal of children from minority families and placement in white foster homes as insensitive to minority culture, and as a deterrent to reporting.

The Hennepin County Attorney's office has been especially criticized. The office has been blamed for failure to prosecute child abusers and for failure to properly prepare witnesses in the few cases an attempt is made to remove a child from its family. The County Attorney has been criticized for lack of leadership in improving the child protection system.

Assessing "blame", however, does not protect children. Emphasizing past failures perpetuates the problem without contributing to the solution. Nor are the problems solved by suggesting, as has the present County Attorney, that the police conduct a full investigation of each reported case of abuse, regardless of the source or nature of the report.

What Are The County Attorney's Responsibilities?

All decisions to seek court intervention in child abuse cases are made by an attorney in the County Attorney's office. If a decision to seek court intervention is made, the County Attorney may:

(1) seek temporary custody of an abused or neglected child; (2) seek termination of parental rights; and (3) prosecute a parent or guardian for a criminal act.

These legal responsibilities must not, however, be exercised in a vacuum. The County Attorney must also work closely with the Child Protection Services which is charged with the responsibility of protecting the health and welfare of children. The County Attorney must also work with a number of private agencies that have assumed a voluntary role in combating child abuse.

In order to carry out these responsibilities, the County Attorney must, I believe, develop a consistent approach to child abuse which places the safety of the child first. This approach must recognize that the best interests of a child may not always be served by separation from his or her family. Court action, or action by Child Protection Services, should seek to insure that parents adequately care for their children and receive necessary assistance to improve their ability to be good parents. This type of action is generally more appropriate than seeking to jail a child's parents. Thus, the County Attorney's office must play a primary role in the protection of abused children, and at the same time, work in a supportive role with other public and private agencies to serve a child's best interests. Proposed Improvements In The Child Protection System.

The Hennepin County Attorney should work to develop constructive suggestions for improving the child protection system rather than simply leveling blanket criticisms. I propose the following:

The Hennepin County Attorney should develop written
policies and procedures, clear and easily understood
by other agencies involved in the child protection
system defining the specific conditions under which

the County Attorney will seek to remove a child from its family. The policies should assure swift and certain prosecution in serious cases of abuse, yet must be flexible enough to respond to the many problems which are frequently associated with child abuse.

- 2. The Hennepin County Attorney should place greater emphasis and resources into the preparation of criminal action against alleged abusers where criminal action is taken.
- 3. The Hennepin County Attorney should develop "working" definitions of child abuse and neglect, and work towards the adoption of better state statutory definitions. These definitions should be developed in close cooperation with Child Protection Services and shared so that all the agencies involved are working on the same basis, thus avoiding the present problems caused by different agencies using different definitions.
- 4. The Hennepin County Attorney should support and work toward the development of expanded 24 hour per day, 7 day per week child protection services including legal services and emergency nurseries.
- 5. The Hennepin County Attorney should initiate greater cooperation and coordination among all the agencies, public and private, involved in child protection.

 Regular meetings and conferences should be held with representatives of Child Protection Services, police departments, medical and hospital personnel, and public health and social service agencies to provide ongoing communication, and to assure that one agency is aware of the needs and complaints of another.
- 6. The Hennepin County Attorney should work with the schools, day care and other child care programs, to

- develop public education programs to assure better understanding, reporting and control of child abuse.
- 7. The Hennepin County Attorney should encourage and work toward the reestablishment of the Child Abuse and Neglect Coordinating Council to provide advice and independent monitoring of the child protection system on an ongoing basis.
- 8. The Hennepin County Attorney should encourage Child Protection Services to adopt the "team" approach so that a variety of professional people are included in decisions on how to handle suspected and actual cases of child abuse.
- 9. The Hennepin County Attorney should encourage Child Protection Services to deploy its field personnel on a geographical basis. At the same time, the County Attorney should assign the personnel in the County Attorney's office so that CPS field workers, police departments and other agencies, can, to the extent possible, develop an ongoing working relationship with a single attorney rather than with several.

If elected County Attorney, I will give high priority to the implementation of these proposals. It is my belief that their adoption would significantly improve our system of protecting children in Hennepin County.



"The County Attorney is one of the most important and visible law enforcement officials in Hennepin County. The people have a right to expect that the County Attorney — their lawyer — be a model of integrity, fairness and accountability. Anything less undermines the people's trust and confidence in their government."

Tom Johnson

Tom Johnson has established himself as a concerned leader dedicated to government reform and the improvement of our criminal justice system.

- · Co-chair, Hennepin County Criminal Justice Council
- · Member, Region G Criminal Justice Council
- Member, Victimless Crimes Committee of Minnesota Bar Association
- Member, Criminal Law section of Minnesota Bar Association
- Member, Individual Rights and Responsibilities Committee of American Bar Association
- Member, Hennepin County, Minnesota, and American Bar Association
- · Founder and first co-chair, Minnesota Lawyer's Council
- Founder, Minnesota Environmental Law Institute
- · Vice President, Minnesota League of Cities
- · Member, Chairman's Advisory Committee, Metropolitan Council

Tom Johnson has proven his leadership qualities during the past four years as a member of the Minneapolis City Council.

- Authored City ordinances on liquor license reform, campaign ethics, truth-in-housing, Dutch Elm disease, and disposable milk containers.
- Developed community health clinics, housing and neighborhood rehabilitation programs and Community Development Citizens Advisory Committees.

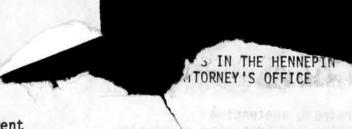
Tom Johnson is a University of Minnesota graduate in physics and law. He has practiced law with a large Minneapolis law firm, was on the staff of the Ramsey County Legal Services Program, and is a current member of the American, Minnesota and Hennepin County Bar Associations. Tom and Eve Johnson and their daughter, Jill, reside at 1712 Brook Avenue in Minneapolis.

The County Attorney

As the elected "people's lawyer" the County Attorney is responsible for the operation and management of the Hennepin County Attorney's Office which employs over 110 people, more than 60 attorneys, and operates with a budget in excess of 3 million dollars annually. The Hennepin County Attorney's Office is responsible for prosecuting gross misdemeanors and felonies on behalf of the State of Minnesota. Charged with the responsibility for deciding which cases are to be charged, dismissed or diverted into community based correction programs, the County Attorney must exercise considerable discretion based on sound facts and proven experience. The County Attorney must take initiative in areas such as child abuse and juvenile crime, and must improve cooperation with all law enforcement agencies. Equally important is the continued assurance that the 3 million dollar budget be spent in the most efficient and effective manner possible to fight crime. A full and open discussion of these and other issues will take place throughout the campaign.

Paid for by the Tom Johnson for County Attorney Volunteer Committee, 2040 Dain Tower, Minneapolis MN 55402 Wood Foster, Treasurer.





I. Office Management

The County Attorney's first responsibility is to be a fair and capable administrator. The County Attorney oversees an annual budget in excess of 3 million dollars and a staff of more than 110 people, including more than 60 lawyers. The County Attorney must assure that these resources are used in the most efficient and effective manner possible. Office management issues include:

- a. Internal personnel management
 b. Case management
 c. Affirmative action
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- d. Budget preparation and control
- e. Productivity measures and programs
- g. Staff development and training
 h. Fiscal responsibility measures
- i. Accessibility and responsiveness

County Attorney's Discretion

The County Attorney's office has essentially unreviewable power in making many decisions that dramatically effect people's lives. If fairness and uniformity are to be attained, the power must be exercised in accordance with sound office policy. Some of the discretionary issues are:

- a. Criminal charging practices
- b. Plea bargaining practices
- c. Bail recommendations
- d. Sentence recommendations
- e. Use of Grand Juriesf. Disparity of treatment of minorities (Grams' report)

III. Civil Issues

The County Attorney is the lawyer for county government and for the people of Hennepin County. More than one-fourth of the County Attorney's staff is assigned to the civil division which is responsible for non-criminal court matters and the legal aspects of operating county government. Some of the civil issues include:

- a. County Board contracts and legislation
- b. County personnel and labor relations
 c. County civil litigation
 d. Taxes

- e. Highways
- f. Park Reserve matters

- h. Hospital, health, and human services
 i. Collections for domestic court services
 j. Environmental issues
- k. Mental commitment
- 1. Alcohol and drug abuse cases

IV. Criminal Issues

The County Attorney is responsible for prosecuting gross misdemeanors and felonies which are committed within Hennepin County. The office's effectiveness in prosecuting these crimes effects the lives of all of us. Approximately one-third of the more than 60 attorneys in the County Attorney's office are assigned to the Criminal Division. The Criminal issues include:

A. Specific crimes

- a. Sexual assaults
- b. Crimes against persons
- c. Crimes against property
- d. Organized crime
- e. White collar crime
- f. Narcotics trafficking

ocedural issues a. Determinate sentencing

b. Probation and probation revocation

c. Diversion programs

d. Career criminal programs

e. Victim and witness preparation and protection

V. Juvenile Justice

Juvenile crime is rising faster than all other types of crime and is of great concern to the public. In addition to the issues which apply equally to adults and juveniles, there are a number of issues which relate specifically to juveniles and the juvenile justice system.

- a. Adult certification
- b. Repeaters
- c. Parental liability
- d. Restitution
- e. Status offenses
- f. Diversionary programs
- g. Residential treatment h. Probation

VI. Social Issues

A number of issues and subject areas which should be of concern to the County Attorney contain elements of both the criminal and civil law. The County Attorney's office should be closely involved in seeking solutions to these problems. Some of these social issues include:

- a. Child abuse and neglect
- b. Spouse abuse
- c. Exploitation of seniors
- d. Welfare fraud
- e. Consumer fraud f. Chemical dependency and abuse

Relationship of the County Attorney's Office to Other Parts of the Criminal Justice VII. System

Many of the problems evident in the criminal justice system in Hennepin County are problems of communications and coordination. As the criminal justice system's most visible elected official, the County Attorney has a responsibility to assure that the various components mesh well. The County Attorney's office must maintain effective relationships with:

- a. The community
- b. Judges
- c. Police departments; Hennepin County Sheriff's Office
- d. City prosecutors in Hennepin County; Metropolitan prosecutor
- e. Jailor
- f. Criminal Justice planners
- g. Other county attorneys
- h. Legislature
- i. Court Services
- j. Community corrections facilities
- k. Victims and witnesses
- 1. Public Defender's Office
- m. Private defense attorneys
- n. Attorney General's Office

Draft: Not for release.

Tom Johnson Position Paper December 2, 1977

INVOLVING THE HENNEPIN COUNTY ATTORNEY IN THE COMMUNITY

Every elected official has a responsibility to be accessible to the community and to be responsive to their ideas and concerns. The Hennepin County Attorney, as the most visible law enforcement officer in the County, at the center of the criminal justice system, has an especially important duty to do so.

The Hennepin County Attorney is Not Involved in the Community at Present.

The present County Attorney has devised a haphazard and gimmick-ridden community relation program which seems to be more designed to promote the County Attorney than to foster improved community involvement and understanding. For instance, the County Attorney's office currently makes extensive use of publications and media which are informative, but also slick and expensive. While the use of such publications can be an important tool for obtaining involvement, they have unfortunately become an end in themselves for the present County Attorney. As such, they are merely public relations and do not bring about meaningful communications because they are all directed at the public, rather than for the purpose of also learning from the public.

All the functions of the Hennepin County Attorney are presently performed in one building in downtown Minneapolis.

Hennepin County covers 600 square miles and many outlying communities are more than ½ hour drive from Minneapolis with ideal traffic conditions. Centralization serves to isolate the County Attorney's office from the communities served and to lessen the opportunity for valuable input from the community regarding their legitimate concerns and ideas.

The Hennepin County Board has recognized the need for decentralization and has established satellite offices to provide the community with services ranging from license applications to delivery of health care. The Hennepin County Municipal Court has long recognized the need for decentralization by maintaining branches in four suburban communities with judges "riding the circuit." The Hennepin County Attorney has resisted, even though the suggestion was made as long ago as 1974.

The need to increase the accessibility of the County Attorney's office in such a manner is pressing. The police officers in one suburban community, for example, recently complained that they must set aside one full day to bring in a criminal case for review by the County Attorney's office, which wastes valuable police time.

What Are the Purposes of Involving the Hennepin County Attorney In the Community?

To assure that the County Attorney's involvement with the community is meaningful and productive, the purpose for this involvement must be carefully considered and all activities of the office co-ordinated so as to create a greater level of public trust in the operation of the legal system by the development of a more fair and effective system and a better mutual understanding of the competing needs and interests of the total community. I see four purposes:

First, through community involvement, members of the Hennepin County Attorney's staff can learn the concerns and ideas of the public so that discretionary decisions, such as the certification of juveniles to stand trial as adults, are not made in a void. It is particularly important for staff members to understand the concerns of the minority communities and of police officers, who frequently have been left out of policy making decisions.

Second, through community involvement, the Hennepin County
Attorney can bring about better public understanding of the
diverse responsibilities of the County Attorney, of the legal
system, and particularly of the criminal justice system. The
Hennepin County Attorney should make every effort to assist the
community in breaking through the mysticism which shrouds the
legal system, so that all citizens have the opportunity to better
understand their rights.

Third, through community involvement, citizens can directly participate in formulating policy to guide the activities of the County Attorney's office. Similarly, the Hennepin County Attorney can then better inform the community as to the resulting decisions, the considerations upon which the decisions were made, and learn of community reaction to the implementation of such decisions. Finally, through community involvement, the Hennepin County Attorney can be better developed as a resource for the community. For example, a full-time county attorney with an extensive staff of civil and criminal attorneys can aid smaller municipalities who often have only part-time attorneys and lack the resources to provide adequate and economic legal service. Proposals For Increased Community Involvement By the Office of the Hennepin County Attorney. To achieve effective, two-way communication between the Hennepin County Attorney and the community, I propose: To establish decentralized offices at various locations within the County to bring attorneys from the County Attorney's office directly into suburban communities. Existing space in governmental buildings could be utilized so that little, if any, additional cost to the taxpayers would result. In fact, the better utilization of police time might result in net savings to the taxpayer. To establish regular office hours for the Hennepin 2. County Attorney at each of the community offices as well as the downtown office. This time would be set aside for the single purpose of meeting with the public. I have scheduled such regular office hours at various locations within my ward during my terms on the Minneapolis City Council and have found the practice to be very valuable. To appoint a Committee on Discretionary Practices to monitor the implementation of standards for controlling the exercise of prosecutoral discretion such as charging, diversion, and plea-- 3 -

bargaining standards, which I propose to adopt if elected Hennepin County Attorney. The committee would be comprised of judges, prosecutors and defense counsel, Court Services representatives, police, and members of the general public and would serve to assure the proper implementation of such standards and to recommend improvements where desirable.

- 4. To appoint Ad Hoc Advisory Committees to focus on specific issues affecting the public as they arise from time to time. For example, such a committee would be created to make recommendations as to how to best implement the substantive and procedural changes in plea-bargaining proposed in an earlier position paper. Such committees would include lay people with a specific interest in the subject under examination and well-experienced professionals. The committees would make their recommendations directly to the Hennepin County Attorney.
- 5. To assign staff attorneys to community organizations, police forces and institutions within Hennepin County which have a desire and need for an on-going relationship with the County Attorney's office. The staff attorney would then serve as a legal resource for the organization and as liaison between the organization and the office of the County Attorney.

The above proposals are consistent with the purposes I see for encouraging community involvement. The degree to which they succeed in fulfilling their purposes, however, will depend to a large measure on the extent and sincerity of the County Attorney's commitment to developing a trusting relationship with the community. I believe I have such a commitment.

COUNTY ATTORNEY '78 February, 1978

Dear Friend,

The position paper which follows is on the juvenile justice system in Hennepin County. It proposes some major reforms.

The paper is still in draft form. I would appreciate it if you would review its content and format and then share with me your thoughts and ideas. Please feel free to mark up the copy and return it to me at 1712 Brook Avenue S.E., Minneapolis, 55414, or call me directly at 338-0767.

Thanks for your help and consideration.

Sincerely

Draft

JUVENILE JUSTICE IN HENNEPIN COUNTY

Juvenile delinquency has increased significantly in Hennepin County. Between 1974 and 1976 the total number of court hearings on delinquency cases rose by 20%, from 11,954 to 14,348. In fact, juveniles now commit over 65% of all serious crimes committed in Hennepin County. Yet too little attention is given and too few resources are allocated to improve the situation. It is time this was changed.

Juvenile Court: The Role of the Hennepin County Attorney.

The core of the juvenile justice system is the Hennepin County Juvenile Court. It has exclusive jurisdiction over all individuals under age 18 who have broken the law. This includes juveniles who have committed traffic violations or a status offense (e.g. truancy) as well

as those who have committed a serious crime (e.g. armed robbery or murder). (By state law, all juveniles are charged with delinquent acts, rather than criminal acts.) Over 14,000 such offenses were reviewed by the County Attorney's office in 1976, the last year for

which figures are complete.

The Hennepin County Juvenile Court is headed by one district court judge who supervises six full-time referees. The Court is assisted by probation officers who make investigations and recommendations regarding the appropriate disposition of each case.

The Hennepin County Attorney has an integral role in the juveniles justice system, representing the public in all juvenile proceedings. The County Attorney's office initiates all juvenile proceedings by filing a petition in Juvenile Court charging a juvenile with a delinquent act. All decisions on how to continue the prosecution are then made by the County Attorney's office.

I believe the current County Attorney has failed to fulfill his responsibilities in the juvenile justice system in two significant ways. First, the County Attorney has not provided the needed administrative leadership for the Juvenile Division of his office. As a result, the office management is inadequate, often leading to delays, confusion and extra cost to the taxpayer. Second, the County Attorney has not developed discernible and consistent policies within the Juvenile Division to assure adequate protection of the public's interest and fair and equal treatment of the juveniles. This paper addresses only the policy issues. A subsequent paper will identify the problems with the management of the Juvenile Division and propose a series of administrative changes.

What is the Problem?

The current County Attorney has not developed priorities for the Juvenile Division nor formalized policies for implementing those priorities. Such priorities and policies are needed to provide direction in handling the following types of cases:

Status Offenders - Juveniles charged with acts for which an adult would not be held criminally liable, such as truancy.

Minor Offenders - Juveniles charged with misdemeanors or a small number of property offenses.

Major Offenders - Juveniles charged with serious offenses against the person or repeated felony property offenses.

The problems that currently exist are highlighted below.

Status Offenders. At present, too many resources of the juvenile justice system are spent on status offenders. Status offenses are generally indicative of a problem within the family or school. They can most appropriately, and at least cost be dealt with by family service agencies, community programs, the welfare department, and the school system.

Minor Offenders. More minor offenders should be diverted from Juvenile Court, thus freeing court resources to focus on more serious offenders. This must be coupled, however, with increased utilization of community-based programs, restitution, and of greater assertion of parental responsibilities. Each of these alternatives now has problems that the County Attorney should address.

First, the strengths and weaknesses of community-based diversion programs are not now adequately assessed. The effectiveness of these programs is unknown to the County Attorney's office, and placements in inadequate facilities occur. As a result, the public is not properly protected, nor is the juvenile in any way helped.

Second, there are no existing policies within the County Attorney's Office or the Juvenile Court governing use of restitution. As a result, restitution is often used discriminatorily, favoring juveniles from more affluent families. Many juvenile offenders who lack monetary resources and/or employment must serve time because of their inability to reimburse victimes. Similarly, there are no policies to guide the use of community service by the juvenile, or by the juvenile in cooperation with his or her parent, as a form of restitu-

Finally, the County Attorney and the entire juvenile justice system must recognize that the parental role is a key to the behavior of juveniles. Parents of delinquents too often are allowed to abdicate their parental responsibility and expect the court to "cure" their children.

Major Offenders. The juvenile justice system is ineffective in dealing with juveniles who commit serious crimes or who seem intent on pursuing criminal careers. At present, the County Attorney's office is too slow in identifying such juveniles and, when it does, certification of the juvenile to stand trial as an adult is the only avenue available.

Unfortunately, numerous problems exist with the certification
process as it is now carried out in
Hennepin County. First, the present County Attorney pursues certification of juveniles in a seemingly
capricious manner. Current guidelines do not ensure that certification will be sought equally for juveniles of similar age, history or previous offenses, and current offense.
Nor does existing state law require
that such individuals be certified

even when certification is sought.

Second, each new criminal offense committed by the same juvenile
must be re-certified in order to be
heard in adult court. Ironically,
however, a convicted juvenile is
often considered by adult court as a
first-time offender, resulting in diversion to community-based, non-secure
programs.

Finally, the purpose of certification is presently unclear. Certification does not protect the community since it is seldom and inconsistently sought, and even less frequently granted. Nor does certification result in treatment for the juvenile, since treatment is notoriously lacking within adult correctional facilities, and programs that do exist are aimed at adults.

Proposals

1. Status Offenders.

Most status offenders should be referred immediately to existing community social services resources. Court involvement should seldom occur, and then only as a last resort. This would allow the County Attorney's office and the juvenile justice system to focus on juveniles who pose a threat to the community.

2. Minor Offenders.

a. The County Attorney should pursue increased utilization of diversionary programs when placing the juvenile on probation is not required to protect the public. Use of diversion or continuance without disposition conditioned only on refraining from further criminal behavior should be avoided.

b. The County Attorney should establish written criteria to indicate when probation is appropriate, and an assistant county attorney should appear in all cases where probation is recommended. These criteria should be based on the age of

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the juvenile, the history of prior offenses, and the current offense.

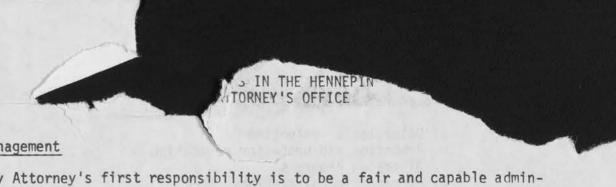
- c. The County Attorney should encourage the development of more work restitution and community service programs. Entry into such programs should be by contractual agreement between the juvenile and the Juvenile Court.
- d. The County Attorney should seek legislation requiring parental cooperation with court orders. Parents who fail to cooperate should have to face consequences, such as educational programs, fines and, in extreme cases, incarceration. Programs should also be established for parents and children to work in teams on restitution or community service projects.
- e. The County Attorney should support development or more community based juvenile programs in geographic areas that currently lack adequate facilities. Additionally, the County Attorney should on an on-going basis familiarize staff attorneys with existing facilities and their effectiveness.

3. Major Offenders.

a. The County Attorney should significantly increase the percentage of professional staff time spent on juveniles who commit serious crimes and are a threat to the community.

- b. The County Attorney should establish a task force composed of the County Attorney and representatives from the police, Hennepin County Public Defender's Office, probation officers and the public to develop specific standards for the certification of juveniles to stand trial as adults. A separate task force should subsequently be established to monitor the implementation of these standards.
- c. The County Attorney should seek early incarceration of a juvenile whenever the community has suffered serious injury and additional injury is probable.
- d. The County Attorney should urge the creation of a secure facility for juveniles sufficient to incarcerate those who have committed serious crimes. Extensive treatment, consisting of psychological, educational and vocational resources, should be included. Sentencing to such a facility should be timelimited and specific, and should be exclusively on the basis of the juvenile's age, history of previous offenses and nature of the current offense. Such a facility could be either separated from, or a separate part of, an adult facility.

ocedural issues a. Determinate sentencing b. Probation and probation revocation c. Diversion programs d. Career criminal programs e. Victim and witness preparation and protection V. Juvenile Justice Juvenile crime is rising faster than all other types of crime and is of great concern to the public. In addition to the issues which apply equally to adults and juveniles, there are a number of issues which relate specifically to juveniles and the juvenile justice system. a. Adult certification b. Repeaters c. Parental liability d. Restitution e. Status offenses f. Diversionary programsg. Residential treatment h. Probation VI. Social Issues A number of issues and subject areas which should be of concern to the County Attorney contain elements of both the criminal and civil law. The County Attorney's office should be closely involved in seeking solutions to these problems. Some of these social issues include: a. Child abuse and neglect b. Spouse abuse c. Exploitation of seniors d. Welfare fraud e. Consumer fraud f. Chemical dependency and abuse VII. Relationship of the County Attorney's Office to Other Parts of the Criminal Justice System Many of the problems evident in the criminal justice system in Hennepin County are problems of communications and coordination. As the criminal justice system's most visible elected official, the County Attorney has a responsibility to assure that the various components mesh well. The County Attorney's office must maintain effective relationships with: a. The community b. Judges c. Police departments; Hennepin County Sheriff's Office d. City prosecutors in Hennepin County; Metropolitan prosecutor e. Jailor f. Criminal Justice planners g. Other county attorneys h. Legislature i. Court Services j. Community corrections facilities k. Victims and witnessesl. Public Defender's Office m. Private defense attorneys n. Attorney General's Office



I. Office Management

The County Attorney's first responsibility is to be a fair and capable administrator. The County Attorney oversees an annual budget in excess of 3 million dollars and a staff of more than 110 people, including more than 60 lawyers. The County Attorney must assure that these resources are used in the most efficient and effective manner possible. Office management issues include:

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