



District Court of Minnesota
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

JODI L. WILLIAMSON
JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am a District Court Judge in the Third Judicial District of the State of Minnesota. While I currently employ an electronic reporter, I periodically work with stenographic reporters. I find both reporting methods to be highly accurate.

While each method has its unique benefits, electronic reporting is most beneficial to me for the following reasons:

- When requested by a deliberating jury, electronic reporting allows instant replay of witness testimony exactly as it was said, including the tone and other speech revealing characteristics.
- In my chambers I can replay testimony exactly as it was presented and I can replay arguments of attorneys before making a decision, which I find very helpful.
- If my law clerk was not present during a hearing and I request research, she can replay attorney arguments or witness testimony exactly as presented. This eliminates the time consuming process for a reporter to produce a rough draft, and possibly inaccurate, transcript.
- Should a question arise over the accuracy of a transcript, electronic reporting allows for instant verification by comparing the written transcript to the actual recording.
- The electronic reporting feature of channel isolation allows for easy speaker identification and transcription particularly when more than one person is speaking at the same time.
- Storage space is minimal and backup copies of recordings are as clear as the original.
- The computers and software are less expensive than the traditional stenographic equipment and electronic reporting technology is easily upgraded and supported by our own computer technicians.

I have no concerns about the professionalism of electronic or stenographic reporters. Additionally, each method includes a comprehensive education and certification program through their national associations.

The State of Minnesota makes no distinction between the reporting methods. Since their job responsibilities are identical, electronic and stenographic reporters are included in the same job classification and both methods receive the same salary, benefits, and professional courtesies. Regardless of method used to capture the record, reporters are required to work for each other to cover absences. The positions are interchangeable.

I encourage you to consider the reporting methods equally. If you wish to discuss this in person or if I can provide additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jodi L. Williamson
Judge of District Court

JLW:mam