

FILED

June 4, 2021

**OFFICE OF
APPELLATE COURTS**

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

ADM10-8049

**ORDER AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF PILOT PROJECT
IN CRIMINAL JURY TRIALS**

In an order filed on January 8, 2020, the court authorized the Fourth Judicial District to conduct a pilot project to test the feasibility and impact of allowing certain audio and video evidence into the jury room. The Supreme Court Advisory Committee on the Rules of Criminal Procedure, which provides the procedures for and monitors the pilot, was directed to file a report on the status of the project by July 31, 2021, with recommendations on the continuation, expansion, or discontinuance of the pilot project. The committee was also directed to survey participants in the pilot project.

Shortly after the pilot project was authorized, proceedings in the Judicial Branch, including in criminal jury trials, were substantially reduced or continued due to the peacetime emergency declared in Minnesota on March 13, 2020. *See Continuing Operations of the Courts of the State of Minnesota Under a Statewide Peacetime Declaration of Emergency*, No. ADM20-8001 (Minn. filed Mar. 20, 2020). Although some criminal jury trials have been held since that time, the practical impact of the peacetime emergency on the pilot project has been to limit the opportunity for a robust pilot project, and in turn, limit the available data to evaluate and survey for the committee's report. Thus, an extension of the pilot project is necessary.

Based on all the files, records, and proceedings herein,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the date by which the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on the Rules of Criminal Procedure shall file a status report on the pilot project to test the feasibility and impact of allowing certain audio and video evidence in the jury room is extended to July 31, 2022. The committee shall file its report with the court, providing specific recommendations on the continuation, expansion, or discontinuance of the pilot project.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that other than the extension of the due date for the committee's report to the court, the provisions of the order of January 8, 2020 governing the pilot project remain in effect and continue to apply.

Dated: June 4, 2021

BY THE COURT:



Lorie S. Gildea
Chief Justice