



**PRESS RELEASE**

**March 22, 2018**

**CARVER COUNTY ATTORNEY MARK METZ ANNOUNCES  
LIMITED RELEASE OF DATA PERTAINING TO  
PRINCE ROGERS NELSON DEATH INVESTIGATION**

On February 9, 2018, Carver County Attorney Mark Metz announced his opposition to the release of any data pertaining to the Prince death investigation because the investigation remains classified as "active" pursuant to Minn. Stat. §13.82, Subd. 7. Under Minnesota law, this law enforcement investigation data remains "active" until a decision to charge or not charge a crime has occurred. County Attorney Metz is reviewing law enforcement reports and he will make a final charging decision in the near future.

The private law firm of Schwebel, Goetz and Sieben was hired by the next-of-kin of Prince to explore the possibility of a potential civil wrongful death lawsuit before any applicable statute of limitations expire that would jurisdictionally bar a wrongful death lawsuit. Importantly, this potential civil proceeding is entirely separate from the criminal investigation.

On March 22, 2018, the Anoka County District Court, in court file number 02-CV-18-747, ordered the release of the Midwest Medical Examiner's autopsy reports to the Schwebel, Goetz and Sieben Law Firm to assist them in determining whether sufficient evidence may exist to support a civil lawsuit. This autopsy report was released pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13.83. The Anoka County District Court imposed a strict protective order on release of the autopsy reports by including, in part, the following language:

- The Plaintiff [Schwebel, Goetz and Sieben Law Firm] agrees that if the report is released to Plaintiff's counsel, Plaintiff's counsel will not re-release any of the information contained within the medical examiner data received from the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office to any third party, except its client.

- Plaintiff's counsel agrees to inform its client that client shall not re-release any of the information contained within the documents received from the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office to any third party and that such a re-release is a violation of this Order, **which constitutes contempt of court and is a violation of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act** (emphasis added).
- Plaintiff agrees that the Plaintiff may use the data covered under this protective order only for purposes of evaluating the merits of civil litigation; any further disclosure requires a court order.

All data classified as public in the Midwest Medical Examiner's autopsy reports was previously released. The public is not entitled to the private data released to Prince's next-of-kin.

County Attorney Metz will appear in Carver County District Court on Wednesday, March 28, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. to address what, if any, investigative reports of the Carver County Sheriff's Office will be disclosed to the Schwebel, Goetz and Sieben Law Firm under a protective order.

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