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NEWS RELEASE

CHILD WELFARE CASE AGAINST LAKEVILLE DAD IS CLOSED

Dakota County Attorney James Backstrom announced that based on the recommendations of the Dakota County Social Worker and the Guardian Ad Litem, the Dakota County Juvenile Court has terminated its jurisdiction in the child protection proceeding involving Steven Cross, the Lakeville father who abandoned his 11-year-old son on July 18, 2011. This brings the child protection matter to a close. Cross was convicted of Neglect of a Child (a gross misdemeanor) and sentenced to two years of probation and ordered to pay restitution earlier this year.

Under the family court order, the parents share joint legal and physical custody. The child is living full-time with his mother and continues to work on his relationship with his father. Eventually the plan is that the boy will be co-parented. A family therapist remains involved in this process.

The hearing scheduled for Wednesday, July 25, 2012 has been cancelled.