**MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH**
MINNESOTA JUDICIAL CENTER
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**TO:** Secretary of the Minnesota Senate, Chief Clerk of the Minnesota House of Representatives, Legislative Reference Library

**RE:** Minn. Stat. §§ 626A.17, subd. 3, 626.085 subd. 5(b), 626A.42, subd. 5(b). Report to Legislature by the State Court Administrator

Minn. Stat. ch. 626A governs the application for and issuance of warrants that authorize the interception of communications; the installation and use of a pen register; trap and trace; mobile tracking device; electronic communication information; and/or authorize the collection of location information of an electronic device. Minn. Stat. § 626.085 also governs electronic communication information.

Minn. Stat. § 626A.17, subd. 1, requires that within 30 days after the expiration of an order granting or denying an application under chapter 626A or each extension thereof, or the denial of an order approving an interception or the use of a pen register, trap and trace device, or mobile tracking device, the issuing or denying judge shall report to the state court administrator:

(1) the fact that an order or extension was applied for;
(2) the kind of order or extension applied for;
(3) the fact that the order or extension was granted as applied for, was modified, or was denied;
(4) the period of interceptions or use of a pen register, trap and trace device, or mobile tracking device authorized by the order, and the number and duration of any extensions of the order;
(5) the offense specified in the order or application, or extension of an order;
(6) the identity of the applying investigative or law enforcement officer and agency making the application and the person authorizing the application; and
(7) the nature of the facilities from which or the place where communications were to be intercepted or activity under the order was to be carried out.

Minn. Stat. § 626.085 subd. 5(a), requires that within 90 days after the court unseals the search warrant that authorizes the disclosure of electronic communication, the issuing or denying judge shall report to the state court administrator:

(1) that a warrant was applied for under this section;
(2) whether the warrant was granted as applied for, was modified, or was denied;
(3) the period of collection of electronic communication information authorized by the warrant, and the number and duration of any extensions of the warrant;
(4) the offense specified in the warrant or application or extension of a warrant; and
(5) the identity of the applying investigative or peace officer and agency making the application and the person authorizing the application.

Minn. Stat. § 626A.42, subd. 5(a), requires that for applications for electronic device location information tracking warrants under section 626A.42, the issuing or denying judge shall report to the state court administrator:

(1) the fact that a tracking warrant or extension was applied for;
(2) the fact that the warrant or extension was granted as applied for, was modified, or was denied;
(3) the period of collection authorized by the warrant, and the number and duration of any extensions of the warrant;
(4) the offense specified in the warrant or application, or extension of a warrant;
(5) whether the collection required contemporaneous monitoring of an electronic device's location; and
(6) the identity of the applying investigative or peace officer and agency making the application and the person authorizing the application.

Minn. Stat. §§ 626A.17, subd. 3, 626.085 subd. 5(b), and 626A.42, subd. 5(b), require the State Court Administrator (SCAO) on or before November 15 of each even-numbered year to file with the legislature a report concerning (1) all warrants and orders authorizing the interception of communications and the use of a pen register, trap and trace device, mobile tracking device, or other electronic or mechanical device, all warrants authorizing the collection of electronic communication information, and all tracking warrants authorizing the collection of location information during the two previous calendar years and (2) all applications that were denied during the two previous calendar years. Each report shall include a summary and analysis of the data. The reports required under sections 626A.17, 626.085 subd. 5(b), and 626A.42 were combined for purposes of this year's report. The required data is presented in Tables 1 – 7 on pages 3 – 6 of this report.

During the reporting period, the majority of warrants/orders reported to SCAO were regarding electronic communication. Warrants regarding and/or authorizing the use of multiple technologies are considered to be governed by all applicable statutes simultaneously. All of the warrants authorizing the installation of pen register and trap and trace devices, and/or the tracking of incoming and outgoing calls and/or texts, as well as the tracking of electronic communication and/or electronic device location information are presumptively sealed under Minn. Stat. § 626A.37, subd. 4. Additionally, as required by section 626A.08, subdivision 2, applications made and warrants issued under chapter 626A are required to be sealed by the judge and may only be disclosed upon a showing of good cause before a judge of the district court.

**Table 1. Warrants applied for under Minn. Stat. Chapter 626A, by Judicial District, 2024 and 2025.**

| District | Total Granted, Denied, or Modified |
|---|---|
| 1 | 431 |
| 2 | 5,281 |
| 3 | 646 |
| 4 | 9,329 |
| 5 | 272 |
| 6 | 216 |
| 7 | 954 |
| 8 | 595 |
| 9 | 1,160 |
| 10 | 1,312 |
| **Grand total** | **20,196** |

**Table 2. Warrants granted, modified, or denied under Minn. Stat. Chapter 626A, 2024 and 2025.**

| Granted/Denied/Modified | Total Count |
|---|---|
| Granted | 18,535 |
| Denied | 1,166 |
| Modified | 471 |
| Not Reported to SCAO | 24 |
| **Total** | **20,196** |

**Table 3. Warrants issued under Minn. Stat. Chapter 626A, by kind of warrant, 2024 and 2025.**

| Kind of Warrant | Total Count that lists a particular kind (warrants may list more than one kind) |
|---|---|
| Pen Register | 6,038 |
| Trap and Trace | 6,049 |
| Mobile Tracking Device | 2,822 |
| Wiretap Interception of Communication | 684 |
| Electronic Device Location Information Tracking Warrant | 6,854 |
| Tracking Warrant Generic | 200 |
| UAV | 48 |

**Table 4. Warrants issued under Minn. Stat. Chapter 626A, by communication mode, 2024-2025.**

| Communication Mode Tracked | Total Count that lists a particular mode (warrants may list more than one mode) |
|---|---|
| Phone/Cell Phone Records | 9,342 |
| Social Media/Electronic Records | 5,855 |
| Motor Vehicle | 2,404 |
| UAV | 6 |
| Online File Sharing | 26 |
| Cell Tower/Station | 160 |
| Electronic Device | 199 |
| Security Surveillance System | 63 |
| IP Address | 138 |
| Mobile Tracking Device | 223 |
| Unspecified to SCAO | 845 |

**Table 5. Warrants issued under Minn. Stat. Chapter 626A, by offense specified in the order or application, 2024 and 2025.**

| Offense | Total Count that lists a particular offense (warrants may list more than one offense) |
|---|---|
| Narcotics | 5,038 |
| Assault | 3,073 |
| Property | 3,714 |
| Sex Crime | 2,379 |
| Fugitive | 1,920 |
| Homicide | 1,838 |
| Weapon | 1,323 |
| Shots Fired | 387 |
| Fleeing | 139 |
| Human Trafficking | 111 |
| Missing Person | 106 |
| Carjacking | 85 |
| Overdose | 81 |
| Kidnapping | 64 |
| Arrest Warrant | 52 |
| Other Offense or Not Reported to SCAO[1] | 756 |

**Table 6. Warrants issued under Minn. Stat. Chapter 626A, by duration specified in the order, 2024 and 2025.**

| Order Duration | Total Count |
|---|---|
| 31-60 Days | 6,853 |
| Historical2 | 6,166 |
| 61-90 Days | 5,071 |
| Unspecified to SCAO | 368 |
| Mix3 | 352 |
| 0-30 Days | 142 |
| Greater than 90 Days | 54 |
| **Total** | **19,006** |

[1] Examples of "Other" offenses include private photos disseminated without permission, animal cruelty, gambling, and bias crime investigation.
[2] "Historical" indicates that the judge authorized a warrant for electronic communications for a period of time before the judge signed the warrant.
[3] "Mix" indicates both a "historical" duration and a future duration.

**Table 7. Warrants applied for under Minn. Stat. Chapter 626A, by type of investigative or law enforcement agency making the application, 2024 and 2025.**

| **Agency** | **Total Count** |
|---|---|
| Police | 12,089 |
| County Sheriff | 4,029 |
| Task Force | 1,327 |
| State Agency | 2,031 |
| Unspecified to SCAO | 353 |
| Federal | 367 |
| **Total** | **20,196** |