

**C1-84-2137  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
IN SUPREME COURT**

**In Re:**

**Supreme Court Advisory Committee  
On Rules of Criminal Procedure**

**REPORT WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS  
TO THE RULES OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE**

**March 7, 2006**

**Hon. Robert Lynn, Chair**

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## INTRODUCTION

On June 24, 2004, the United States Supreme Court held in Blakely v. Washington, 542 U.S. 296, 124 S.Ct. 2531 (2004), that an upward departure in sentencing under the State of Washington's determinate sentencing system violated the defendant's Sixth Amendment right to a jury trial because the additional findings required to justify the departure must be made by a jury, and beyond a reasonable doubt. The Blakely decision called into question the legitimacy of upward sentencing departures under determinate sentencing systems similar to that of Washington.

The Minnesota Supreme Court considered the application of Blakely to the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines in State v. Shattuck, 689 N.W.2d 785 (Minn. 2004). In an order issued on December 16, 2004, the Court held that upward departures under the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines are subject to the Blakely holding, and requested further briefing from the parties on the applicable remedy. Id. On August 18, 2005, the Court issued a further opinion holding that Part II.D of the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines, which allows for judicially determined upward departures, is unconstitutional under Blakely. The Court further held that Part II.D can be severed from the remaining guidelines provisions and that the other provisions remain in full effect. State v. Shattuck, 704 N.W.2d 131 (Minn. 2005).

The Minnesota Legislature enacted provisions relating to Blakely in the 2005 legislative session, which are set to expire February 1, 2007. See 2005 Minn. Laws ch. 136, art. 16, §§ 3-6, now codified at Minn. Stat. § 244.10, subds. 4-7. This is a procedural matter that is within the province of the court, and it is appropriate that procedural rules governing this matter be included in the Rules of Criminal Procedure.

The Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules of Criminal Procedure has been monitoring cases and other developments following the issuance of Blakely to determine an appropriate point at which to recommend enactment of procedures to govern the process for seeking an aggravated departure. The issuance of Shattuck and other cases has resulted in a legal landscape in which it now appears that formal procedures should be enacted as part of the Rules of Criminal Procedure. The following report sets forth proposed procedures for seeking an aggravated sentence and summarizes the issues considered by the committee in developing this proposal. The report addresses the overall procedure by topic, and the proposed amendments follow.

### **DEFINITION OF AGGRAVATED SENTENCE**

The committee settled upon the term “aggravated sentence” to describe the type of sentence governed by Blakely, and recommends defining the term in Rule 1.04. The committee recognizes that this definition may need to be amended over time to accommodate further developments in the case law.

### **NOTICE**

Determining the point at which notice of intent to seek an aggravated sentence should be required generated the most discussion within the committee. At the core of the controversy is a question about the fundamental nature of the factors that support an aggravated sentence. On one side, an argument can be made that the factors are functionally equivalent to elements of the offense, and therefore must be included in the complaint or indictment. Alternatively, an argument can be made that the facts in support of an aggravated sentence are merely sentencing factors, and therefore due process considerations are paramount in setting an appropriate point at which notice of intent to seek an aggravating sentence must be given. In addition, there were

practical concerns to consider. Prosecutors were concerned that the notice not be required too early in the process because in some cases, aggravating factors are not known until much later in the case. Defense attorneys were concerned that notice be provided early enough in the process to allow for a proper defense, and that it be sufficiently detailed so as to be adequate.

Putting aside the question as to whether the facts in support of an aggravated sentence are functionally equivalent to elements of the offense, committee members agreed that at a minimum, notice should be provided by the point where plea negotiations are likely to occur. The committee acknowledged that this point varies across the state, but a majority of the committee members felt the Omnibus Hearing reflects the point of commonality among the varying procedures. The proposed procedure sets a deadline at seven days prior to the Omnibus Hearing, with some allowance for later notice. A minority of the committee asserts that this notice provision comes too early in the process, especially in light of the differing practices with regard to the timing and content of the Omnibus Hearing, and has offered an alternative proposal requiring that notice be given fourteen days before trial. See alternative language below. Under either alternative, the notice procedure is proposed in new Rule 7.03 for cases initiated by complaint, and in Rule 19.04 for cases initiated by indictment.

It should be noted, however, that some members of the committee are concerned that the procedure will not be constitutionally adequate if it is determined through case law that the facts in support of an aggravated sentence are functionally equivalent to elements of the offense. If such a determination is made, the committee will prepare and submit a substitute procedure requiring notice of the factors in or with the complaint or indictment.

Because the notice deadline resulted from a compromise position as to whether the facts in support of an aggravated sentence are functionally equivalent to elements of the offense, there

was also disagreement as to the standard that should be used to permit notice to be submitted later in the process. All committee members agreed that there should be a mechanism to support the prosecution's legitimate desire to seek an aggravated sentence when facts become known after the initial notice deadline. A majority also agreed that the decision to allow a later notice should be at the discretion of the court, and should be guided by the twin standards of good cause and prejudice to the defendant. There was, however, considerable debate as to whether the rule should be written so as to require the defendant to raise an objection if a later notice appeared to prejudice the defense's case or so as to require the prosecutor to show good cause to justify every notice provided later than seven days prior to the Omnibus Hearing.

A minority of members felt strongly that the standard should be no different than that used to guide the court's discretion in considering whether to allow the prosecution to amend the complaint. The minority argues that the "good cause shown" language is impractical and unreasonable, and that if it is adopted, exceptions will outnumber the rule. The minority states that because the prejudice rule has adequately protected defendants in the context of amendments to the complaint, a simple prejudice rule should suffice for sentencing notices as well.

The language recommended in this report at Rules 7.03 and 19.04, subd. 6(3), to address the timing of the notice and the standard by which a later notice is deemed permissible is as follows:

At least seven days prior to the Omnibus Hearing, or at such later time if permitted by the court upon good cause shown and upon such conditions as will not unfairly prejudice the defendant, the prosecuting attorney shall notify the defendant or defense counsel in writing of intent to seek an aggravated sentence. The notice shall include the grounds or statutes relied upon and a summary statement of the factual basis supporting the aggravated sentence.

The alternative language suggested by the minority is as follows:

At least fourteen days prior to trial, or as soon thereafter as grounds become known to the prosecuting attorney, if the substantial rights of the defendant are not prejudiced, the prosecuting attorney shall notify the defendant or defense counsel in writing of intent to seek an aggravated sentence. The notice shall include the grounds or statutes relied upon and a summary statement of the factual basis supporting the aggravated sentence.

## **DISCLOSURE**

The committee recommends adding a provision to Rule 9.01 to state that the prosecutor has a duty to disclose evidence upon which the prosecutor intends to rely in seeking an aggravated sentence. This duty is also subject to the continuing duty to disclose for the duration of the proceedings that is already included in Rule 9.03, subd. 2.

## **EVIDENTIARY HEARING AND DECISION TO BIFURCATE**

Committee members agreed that there should be an opportunity for the defense to raise an objection to the prosecutor's intent to seek an aggravated sentence based on an argument that the proffered grounds cannot legally support an aggravated sentence, insufficiency of evidence, or both. The committee has therefore recommended adding an opportunity for a hearing on the matter in Rule 11.04.

A second order of business at the hearing is the determination as to whether the issues will be presented to the jury in a unitary or bifurcated trial. This issue generated a great deal of discussion as to whether there should be a default trial type. Under the current legislative procedure, the default trial type is unitary unless the prosecutor requests a bifurcated trial and the evidence in support of an aggravated departure would be inadmissible during the trial on the offense elements and/or prejudicial to the defendant. The committee noted that a default unitary trial type could result in litigation by the defense in almost every case for at least a bifurcated final argument, if not trial. A bifurcated default trial type could result in wasted resources because a number of cases might appropriately be tried in a unitary manner. If no default trial type is established by rule, the trial type will have to be determined in every case, but will not necessarily be a contested issue in every case. Thus, the committee decided to offer amendments that would assist the court in determining the appropriate trial type, but that would not require a particular trial type in every case.

The committee's recommendation recognizes three potential trial types: 1) a fully unitary trial; 2) a bifurcated trial; and 3) a unitary trial with a bifurcated final argument. The criteria for determining the appropriate trial type are admissibility of the evidence in support of an aggravated sentence in the guilt phase of the trial and the prejudicial impact of that evidence. A unitary trial type is appropriate when the evidence in support of an aggravated sentence would be both admissible in the guilt phase of the trial and not prejudicial to the defendant on the issue of guilt. A bifurcated trial type would be appropriate when either the evidence is not admissible in the guilt phase of the trial or is unfairly prejudicial on the issue of guilt, or both. A unitary trial type with a bifurcated final argument would be appropriate in those situations in which the evidence is such that it would be admissible and not unfairly prejudicial in the guilt phase of the

trial, but would place the defense in the position of making an awkward final argument both against guilt, and alternatively, if the defendant *is* guilty, against the factors in support of an aggravated sentence.

The committee received some comment raising concern about the hearing provided for in this rule because there is no evidentiary standard or detail as to how much process should be afforded in the hearing. The committee deliberately chose not to elaborate on these issues, and anticipates that these matters will develop through case law.

### **RIGHTS ADVISORY, PLEA PETITION, AND WAIVER**

Corollary to the right to a jury trial on the facts in support of an aggravated sentence is the ability to waive that right. The committee is concerned that this waiver be done separately from any waivers on the issue of guilt so that the distinction between the jury trial on the issue of guilt and the jury trial on the issue of the aggravated sentence will be clear, and the waiver will be understandable to the defendant. This waiver can occur in three distinct situations: 1) the defendant admits to all facts in support of an aggravated sentence; 2) the defendant waives the right to a jury as fact finder, and allows the judge to determine whether the facts in support of an aggravated sentence have been proven; or 3) the defendant waives the right to a jury as fact finder, stipulates to certain facts, and allows the court to determine whether the stipulated facts are sufficient to support an aggravated sentence. The committee has proposed procedures: 1) in Rule 15 to allow for admission of the facts in support of an aggravated sentence and waiver of a jury trial on those facts; 2) in Rule 26.01, subd. 1, to address waiver of the jury as fact finder; and 3) in Rule 26.01, subd. 3, to address waiver in the context of a stipulated facts trial.



## **MOTIONS FOR INSUFFICIENCY OF EVIDENCE**

The committee recommends adding a procedure in Rule 26.03, subd. 17 allowing for a motion to withdraw the issue of the aggravated sentence from jury consideration if the evidence is deemed insufficient prior to submission of the case to the jury, or to overturn the verdict if the evidence is deemed insufficient after the return and discharge of the jury.

## **VERDICT**

The committee recommends adding language to Rule 26.03, subd. 18 stating that issues relating to an aggravated sentence shall be submitted to the court by special interrogatory. The committee did not go into detail as to the form of the verdict, noting that there is already a sample verdict form in the Criminal Jury Instruction Guide. Additionally, the committee recommends amending Rule 26.03, subd. 19 to allow the parties to request that the jury be polled as to the special interrogatory.

## **MOTION FOR NEW TRIAL**

The committee considered the possibility that the grounds for a new trial currently in Rule 26.04, subd. 1 could potentially be applicable to a trial on the facts in support of an aggravated sentence and has therefore amended the rule to accommodate that.

## MITIGATED SENTENCE PROCEEDINGS

Prior to Blakely, the court had discretion to depart upward or downward from the presumptive sentence. That discretion was reflected in Rule 27.03. subd. 1, which required the court to inform the parties that it was considering a departure for sentencing. The committee recommends amending the rule to reflect the current state of the law, which continues to allow the court to exercise this discretion without findings by a jury for mitigated departures.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully Submitted,

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Judge Robert Lynn  
Chair, Advisory Committee on Rules of  
Criminal Procedure

# PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

*Note: Throughout these proposals, unless otherwise indicated, deletions are indicated by a line drawn through the words, and additions are underlined.*

## 1. Rule 1.04. Definitions

*Amend Rule 1.04 by adding a new paragraph (d) as follows:*

(d) Aggravated Sentence. As used in these rules, the term “aggravated sentence” refers to a sentence that is an upward durational or dispositional departure from the presumptive sentence provided for in the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines based upon aggravating circumstances or a statutory sentencing enhancement.

## 2. Comments – Rule 1

*Amend the comments to Rule 1 by adding a new paragraph at the end of the existing comments as follows:*

Rule 1.04 (d) defines “aggravated sentence” for the purpose of the provisions in these rules governing the procedure that a sentencing court must follow to impose an upward sentencing departure in compliance with *Blakely v. Washington*, 542 U.S. 296, 124 S.Ct. 2531 (2004). On June 24, 2004, the United States Supreme Court decided in *Blakely* that an upward departure in sentencing under the State of Washington’s determinate sentencing system violated the defendant’s Sixth Amendment rights where the additional findings required to justify the departure were not made beyond a reasonable doubt by a jury. The definition is in accord with existing Minnesota case law holding that *Blakely* applies to upward departures under the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines and under various sentencing enhancement statutes requiring additional factual findings. See, e.g., *State v. Shattuck*, 704 N.W.2d 131 (Minn. 2005) (durational departures); *State v. Allen*, 706 N.W.2d 40 (Minn. 2005) (dispositional departures); *State v. Leake*, 699 N.W.2d 312 (Minn. 2005) (life sentence without release under Minn. Stat. § 609.106); *State v. Barker*, 705 N.W.2d 768 (Minn. 2005) (firearm sentence enhancements under Minn. Stat. § 609.11); and *State v. Henderson*, 706 N.W.2d 758 (Minn. 2005) (career offender sentence enhancements under Minn. Stat. § 609.1095, subd. 4). However, these *Blakely*-related protections and procedures do not apply retroactively to sentences that were imposed and were no longer subject to direct appeal by the time that *Blakely* was decided on June 24, 2004. *State v. Houston*, 702 N.W.2d 268 (Minn. 2005). Also, the protections and procedures do not apply to sentencing departures and enhancements that are based solely on a defendant’s criminal conviction history such as the assessment of a custody status point under the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines. *State v. Allen*, 706 N.W.2d 40 (Minn. 2005). For aggravated sentence procedures related to *Blakely*, see Rule 7.03 (notice of prosecutor’s intent to seek an aggravated sentence in proceedings prosecuted by complaint); Rule 9.01, subd. 1(7) (discovery of evidence relating to an aggravated sentence); Rule 11.04 (Omnibus Hearing decisions on

aggravated sentence issues); Rule 15.01, subd. 2 and Appendices E and F (required questioning and written petition provisions concerning defendant's admission of facts supporting an aggravated sentence and accompanying waiver of rights); Rule 19.04, subd. 6(3) (notice of prosecutor's intent to seek an aggravated sentence in proceedings prosecuted by indictment); Rule 26.01, subd. 1(2)(b) (waiver of right to a jury trial determination of facts supporting an aggravated sentence); Rule 26.01, subd. 3 (stipulation of facts to support an aggravated sentence and accompanying waiver of rights); Rules 26.03, subd. 17(1) and (3) (motion that evidence submitted to jury was insufficient to support an aggravated sentence); Rule 26.03, subd. 18(6) (verdict forms); Rule 26.03, subd. 19(5) (polling the jury); and Rule 26.04, subd. 1 (new trial on aggravated sentence issue). The procedures provided in these rules for the determination of aggravated sentence issues supersede the procedures concerning those issues in Minn. Stat. § 244.10 (see 2005 Minn. Laws, ch. 136, art. 16, §§ 3-6) or other statutes.

**3. Rule 7. Notice by Prosecuting Attorney of Evidence and Identification Procedures; Completion of Discovery**

*Create a new Rule 7.03 as follows, and renumber existing Rule 7.03 as Rule 7.04:*

**Rule 7.03. Notice of Prosecutor's Intent to Seek an Aggravated Sentence**

At least seven days prior to the Omnibus Hearing, or at such later time if permitted by the court upon good cause shown and upon such conditions as will not unfairly prejudice the defendant, the prosecuting attorney shall notify the defendant or defense counsel in writing of intent to seek an aggravated sentence. The notice shall include the grounds or statutes relied upon and a summary statement of the factual basis supporting the aggravated sentence.

**4. Comments – Rule 7**

*Amend the comments to Rule 7 by substituting the words “Rule 7.04” for the words “Rule 7.03” in the existing fifth and sixth paragraphs of the comments and by adding the following new paragraph after the existing fourth paragraph of the comments:*

Rule 7.03 establishes the notice requirements for a prosecutor to initiate proceedings seeking an aggravated sentence in compliance with *Blakely v. Washington*, 542 U.S. 296, 124 S.Ct. 2531 (2004). See Rule 1.04 (d) as to the definition of “aggravated sentence”. Also, see the comments to that rule. The written notice required by Rule 7.03 must include not only the grounds or statute relied upon, but also a summary statement of the supporting factual basis. However, there is no requirement that the factual basis be given under oath. In developing this rule, the Advisory Committee was concerned that if prosecutors were required to provide notice too early in the proceedings, they may not yet have sufficient information to make that decision and therefore may be inclined to overcharge. On the other hand it is important that defendants and defense counsel have adequate advance notice of the aggravated sentence

allegations so that they can defend against them. Further, the earlier that accurate complete aggravated sentence notices are given, the more likely it is that cases can be settled, and at an earlier point in the proceedings. The requirement of the rule that notice be given at least seven days before the Omnibus Hearing balances these important, sometimes competing, policy considerations. However, the rule recognizes that it may not always be possible to give notice by that time and the court may permit a later notice for good cause shown so long as the later notice will not unfairly prejudice the defendant. In making that decision the court can consider whether a continuance of the proceedings or other conditions would cure any unfair prejudice to the defendant. Pretrial issues concerning a requested aggravated sentence will be considered and decided under the Omnibus Hearing provisions of Rule 11.04.

## 5. Rule 9.01. Disclosure by Prosecution

*Amend Rule 9.01, subd. 1, as follows:*

Subd. 1. **Disclosure by Prosecution Without Order of Court.** Without order of court and except as provided in Rule 9.01, subd. 3, the prosecuting attorney on request of defense counsel shall, before the date set for Omnibus Hearing provided for by Rule 11, allow access at any reasonable time to all matters within the prosecuting attorney's possession or control which relate to the case and make the following disclosures:

(1) *Trial Witnesses; Grand Jury Witnesses; Other Persons.*

(a) The prosecuting attorney shall disclose to defense counsel the names and addresses of the persons intended to be called as witnesses at the trial together with their prior record of convictions, if any, within the prosecuting attorney's actual knowledge. The prosecuting attorney shall permit defense counsel to inspect and reproduce such witnesses' relevant written or recorded statements and any written summaries within the prosecuting attorney's knowledge of the substance of relevant oral statements made by such witnesses to prosecution agents.

(b) The fact that the prosecution has supplied the name of a trial witness to defense counsel shall not be commented on in the presence of the jury.

(c) If the defendant is charged by indictment, the prosecuting attorney shall disclose to defense counsel the names and addresses of the witnesses who testified before the grand jury in the case against the defendant.

(d) The prosecuting attorney shall disclose to defense counsel the names and the addresses of persons having information relating to the case.

(2) *Statements.* The prosecuting attorney shall disclose and permit defense counsel to inspect and reproduce any relevant written or recorded statements which relate to the case within the possession or control of the prosecution, the existence of which is known by the prosecuting attorney, and shall provide defense counsel with the substance of any oral statements which relate to the case.

(3) *Documents and Tangible Objects.* The prosecuting attorney shall disclose and permit defense counsel to inspect and reproduce books, grand jury minutes or transcripts, law enforcement officer reports, reports on prospective jurors, papers, documents, photographs and tangible objects which relate to the case and the prosecuting attorney shall also permit defense counsel to inspect and photograph buildings or places

which relate to the case.

(4) *Reports of Examinations and Tests.* The prosecuting attorney shall disclose and permit defense counsel to inspect and reproduce any results or reports of physical or mental examinations, scientific tests, experiments or comparisons made in connection with the particular case. The prosecuting attorney shall allow the defendant to have reasonable tests made. If a scientific test or experiment of any matter, except those conducted under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 169, may preclude any further tests or experiments, the prosecuting attorney shall give the defendant reasonable notice and an opportunity to have a qualified expert observe the test or experiment.

(5) *Criminal Record of Defendant and Defense Witnesses.* The prosecuting attorney shall inform defense counsel of the records of prior convictions of the defendant and of any defense witnesses disclosed under Rule 9.02, subd. 1(3)(a) that are known to the prosecuting attorney provided the defense counsel informs the prosecuting attorney of any such records known to the defendant.

(6) *Exculpatory Information.* The prosecuting attorney shall disclose to defense counsel any material or information within the prosecuting attorney's possession and control that tends to negate or reduce the guilt of the accused as to the offense charged.

(7) *Evidence Relating to Aggravated Sentence.* The prosecuting attorney shall disclose to the defendant or defense counsel all evidence not otherwise disclosed upon which the prosecutor intends to rely in seeking an aggravated sentence.

(78) *Scope of Prosecutor's Obligations.* The prosecuting attorney's obligations under this rule extend to material and information in the possession or control of members of the prosecution staff and of any others who have participated in the investigation or evaluation of the case and who either regularly report or with reference to the particular case have reported to the prosecuting attorney's office.

## 6. Comments – Rule 9

***Amend the comments to Rule 9 by substituting the words “Rule 9.01, subd. 1(8)” for the words “Rule 9.01, subd. 1(7)” in the existing nineteenth paragraph of the comments and by adding the following new paragraph after the existing eighteenth paragraph of the comments:***

*Rule 9.01, subd. 1(7) requires the prosecuting attorney to disclose to the defendant or defense counsel all evidence not otherwise disclosed upon which the prosecuting attorney intends to rely in seeking an aggravated sentence under *Blakely v. Washington*, 542 U.S. 296, 124 S.Ct. 2531 (2004). The prosecuting attorney also has a continuing duty to disclose such evidence under Rule 9.03, subd. 2. See Rule 1.04 (d) for the definition of “aggravated sentence” and also see the comments to that rule.*

**7. Rule 11.04. Other Issues**

*Amend Rule 11.04 as follows:*

**Rule 11.04. Other Issues**

The Omnibus Hearing may include a pretrial dispositional conference to determine whether the case can be resolved without scheduling it for trial. The court shall ascertain any other constitutional, evidentiary, procedural or other issues that may be heard or disposed of before trial and such other matters as will promote a fair and expeditious trial, and shall hear and determine them, or continue the hearing for that purpose as permitted by Rule 11.07.

If the prosecution has given notice under Rule 7.02 of intention to offer evidence of additional offenses, upon motion a hearing shall be held to determine their admissibility under Rule 404(b) of the Minnesota Rules of Evidence and whether there is clear and convincing evidence that defendant committed the offenses.

If the prosecutor has given notice under Rule 7.03 or 19.04, subd. 6(3) of intent to seek an aggravated sentence, a hearing shall be held to determine whether the law and proffered evidence support an aggravated sentence. If so, the court shall determine whether the issues will be presented to the jury in a unitary or bifurcated trial.

In deciding whether to bifurcate the trial, the court shall consider whether the evidence in support of an aggravated sentence is otherwise admissible in the guilt phase of the trial and whether unfair prejudice would result to the defendant in a unitary trial. A bifurcated trial shall be ordered where evidence in support of an aggravated sentence includes evidence that is inadmissible during the guilt phase of the trial or would result in unfair prejudice to the defendant. If the court orders a unitary trial the court may still order separate final arguments on the issues of guilt and the aggravated sentence.

If the defendant intends to offer evidence of a victim's previous sexual conduct in a prosecution for violation of Minn. Stat., §§ 609.342 to 609.346, a motion shall be made pursuant to the procedures prescribed by Rule 412 of the Minnesota Rules of Evidence.

**8. Comments – Rule 11**

*Amend the comments to Rule 11 by substituting the words “Rule 7.04” for “Rule 7.03” in the fifth paragraph of the comments and by adding the following new paragraph after the existing thirteenth paragraph of the comments:*

If the prosecuting attorney has given notice under Rule 7.03 or 19.04, subd. 6(3) of intent to seek an aggravated sentence, Rule 11.04 requires the court to have a hearing to determine any pretrial issues that need to be resolved in connection with that request. This could include issues as to the timeliness of the notice under Rule 7.03 or 19.04, subd. 6(3). The court must determine whether the proposed grounds legally support an

aggravated sentence and whether or not the proffered evidence is sufficient to proceed to trial. The rule does not provide a standard for determining insufficiency of the evidence claims and that is left to case law development. If the aggravated sentence claim will be presented to a jury, the court must also decide whether the evidence will be presented in a unitary or a bifurcated trial and the rule provides the standards for making that determination. Even if a unitary trial is ordered for the presentation of evidence, the rule recognizes that presentation of argument on an aggravated sentence during the guilt phase of the proceedings may unduly prejudice a defendant. The rule therefore allows the court to order separate final arguments on the aggravated sentence issue, if necessary, after the jury renders its verdict on the issue of guilt.

**9. Rule 15. Procedure Upon Plea of Guilty; Plea Agreements; Plea Withdrawal; Plea to Lesser Offense**

*Amend the title to Rule 15 as follows:*

**Rule 15. Procedure Upon Plea of Guilty; Plea Agreements; Plea Withdrawal; Plea to Lesser Offense; Aggravated Sentence**

*Amend Rule 15.01 as follows:*

**Rule 15.01. Acceptance of Plea; Questioning Defendant on Plea or Aggravated Sentence; Felony and Gross Misdemeanor Cases**

**Subdivision 1. Guilty Plea.**

Before the court accepts a plea of guilty, the defendant shall be sworn and questioned by the court with the assistance of counsel as to the following:

1. Name, age and date and place of birth and whether the defendant is handicapped in communication and, if so, whether a qualified interpreter has been provided for the defendant.
2. Whether the defendant understands the crime charged.
3. Specifically, whether the defendant understands that the crime charged is (name of offense) committed on or about (month) (day) (year) in \_\_\_\_\_ County, Minnesota (and that the defendant is tendering a plea of guilty to the crime of (name of offense) which is a lesser degree or lesser included offense of the crime charged).
4. a. Whether the defendant has had sufficient time to discuss the case with defense counsel.  
  
b. Whether the defendant is satisfied that defense counsel is fully informed as to the facts of the case, and that defense counsel has represented the defendant's interests and fully advised the defendant.



5. Whether the defendant has been told by defense counsel and understands that upon a plea of not guilty, there is a right to a trial by jury and that a finding of guilty is not possible unless all jurors agree.

6. a. Whether the defendant has been told by defense counsel and understands that there will not be a trial by either a jury or by a judge without a jury if the defendant pleads guilty.

b. Whether the defendant waives the right to a trial on the issue of guilt.

7. Whether the defendant has been told by defense counsel, and understands that if the defendant wishes to plead not guilty and have a trial by jury or by a judge, the defendant will be presumed to be innocent until guilt is proved beyond a reasonable doubt.

8. a. Whether the defendant has been told by defense counsel, and understands that if the defendant wishes to plead not guilty and have a trial, the prosecutor will be required to have the prosecution witnesses testify in open court in the defendant's presence, and that the defendant will have the right, through defense counsel, to question these witnesses.

b. Whether the defendant waives the right to have these witnesses testify in the defendant's presence in court and be questioned by defense counsel.

9. a. Whether the defendant has been told by defense counsel and understands that if the defendant wishes to plead not guilty and have a trial, the defendant will be entitled to require any defense witnesses to appear and testify.

b. Whether the defendant waives this right.

10. Whether defense counsel has told the defendant and the defendant understands:

a. That the maximum penalty that the court could impose for the crime charged (taking into consideration any prior conviction or convictions) is imprisonment for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

b. That if a minimum sentence is required by statute the court may impose a sentence of imprisonment of not less than \_\_\_\_\_ months for the crime charged.

c. That for felony driving while impaired offenses and most sex offenses, a mandatory period of conditional release will be imposed to follow any executed prison sentence, and violating the terms of that conditional release may increase the time the defendant serves in prison.

d. That if the defendant is not a citizen of the United States, a plea of guilty to the crime charged may result in deportation, exclusion from admission to the United States, or denial of naturalization as a United States citizen.

e. That the prosecutor is seeking an aggravated sentence.

11. Whether defense counsel has told the defendant that the defendant discussed the case with one of the prosecuting attorneys, and that the respective attorneys agreed that if the defendant entered a plea of guilty the prosecutor will do the following: (state the substance of the plea agreement.)

12. Whether defense counsel has told the defendant and the defendant understands that if the court does not approve the plea agreement, the defendant has an absolute right to withdraw the plea of guilty and have a trial.

13. Whether, except for the plea agreement, any policeman, prosecutor, judge, defense counsel, or any other person, made any promises or threats to the defendant or any member of the defendant's family, or any of the defendant's friends, or other persons in order to obtain a plea of guilty.

14. Whether defense counsel has told the defendant and the defendant understands that if the plea of guilty is for any reason not accepted by the court, or is withdrawn by the defendant with the court's approval, or is withdrawn by court order on appeal or other review, that the defendant will stand trial on the original charge (charges) namely, (state the offense) (which would include any charges that were dismissed as a result of the plea agreement) and that the prosecution could proceed just as if there had never been any agreement.

15. a. Whether the defendant has been told by defense counsel and understands, that if the defendant wishes to plead not guilty and have a jury trial, the defendant can testify if the defendant wishes, but that if the defendant decided not to testify, neither the prosecutor nor the judge could comment to the jury about the failure to testify.

b. Whether the defendant waives this right, and agrees to tell the court about the facts of the crime.

16. Whether with knowledge and understanding of these rights the defendant still wishes to enter a plea of guilty or instead wishes to plead not guilty.

17. Whether the defendant makes any claim of innocence.

18. Whether the defendant is under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs or under mental disability or under medical or psychiatric treatment.

19. Whether the defendant has any questions to ask or anything to say before stating the facts of the crime.

20. What is the factual basis for the plea.

(NOTE: It is desirable that the defendant also be asked to acknowledge signing

the Petition to Plead Guilty, suggested form of which is contained in the appendix A to these rules; that the defendant has read the questions set forth in the petition or that they have been read to the defendant, and that the defendant understands them; that the defendant gave the answers set forth in the petition; and that they are true. If an aggravated sentence is sought, refer to subdivision 2 of this rule.)

### **Subd. 2. Aggravated Sentence.**

Before the court accepts an admission of facts in support of an aggravated sentence, the defendant shall be sworn and questioned by the court with the assistance of counsel, in addition to and separately from the inquiry that may be required by subdivision 1, as to the following:

1. Whether the defendant understands that the prosecution is seeking a sentence greater than the presumptive sentence called for in the sentencing guidelines.

2. a. Whether the defendant understands that the presumptive sentence for the crime to which the defendant has pled guilty or otherwise has been found guilty is \_\_\_\_\_, and that the defendant could not be given an aggravated sentence greater than the presumptive sentence unless the prosecutor proves facts in support of such aggravated sentence.

b. Whether the defendant understands that the sentence in this case will be an aggravated sentence of \_\_\_\_\_, or will be left to the judge to decide.

3. a. Whether the defendant has had sufficient time to discuss this aggravated sentence with defense counsel.

b. Whether the defendant is satisfied that defense counsel is fully informed as to the facts supporting an aggravated sentence and has represented defendant's interests and fully advised the defendant.

4. Whether the defendant has been told by defense counsel and understands that even though the defendant has pled guilty to or has otherwise been found guilty of the crime of \_\_\_\_\_, defendant may nonetheless deny the facts alleged by the prosecution which would support an aggravated sentence.

5. a. Whether the defendant has been told by defense counsel and understands that if defendant chooses to deny the facts alleged in support of an aggravated sentence, the defendant has a right to a trial by either a jury or a judge to determine whether those facts have been proven, and that a finding that the facts are proven is not possible unless all jurors agree.

b. Whether the defendant waives the right to a trial of the facts in support of an aggravated sentence to a jury or a judge.

6. Whether the defendant has been told by defense counsel and understands that at such trial before a jury or a judge, the defendant would be presumed not to be subject to an aggravated sentence and the court could not impose an aggravated sentence unless the facts in support of the aggravated sentence are proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

7. a. Whether the defendant has been told by defense counsel and understands that if the defendant wishes to deny the facts alleged in support of an aggravated sentence and have a trial to a jury or a judge, the prosecutor will be required to have the prosecution witnesses testify in open court in the defendant's presence, and that the defendant will have the right, through defense counsel, to question these witnesses.

b. Whether the defendant waives the right to have these witnesses testify in the defendant's presence and be questioned by defense counsel.

8. a. Whether the defendant has been told by defense counsel and understands that if the defendant wishes to deny the facts alleged in support of an aggravated sentence and have a trial to a jury or a judge, the defendant will be entitled to require any defense witnesses to appear and testify.

b. Whether the defendant waives this right.

9. a. Whether the defendant has been told by defense counsel and understands that if the defendant wishes to deny the facts in support of an aggravated sentence and have a trial to a jury or a judge, the defendant can testify if the defendant wishes, but that if the defendant decides not to testify, neither the prosecutor nor the judge could comment to the jury about the failure to testify.

b. Whether the defendant waives this right and agrees to tell the court about the facts in support of an aggravated sentence.

10. Whether, with knowledge and understanding of these rights, the defendant still wishes to admit the facts in support of an aggravated sentence or instead wishes to deny these facts and have a trial to a jury or a judge.

11. What is the factual basis for an aggravated sentence.

(Note: Where a represented defendant is pleading guilty without an aggravated sentence, use the plea petition form in Appendix A to these rules. Where a represented defendant's plea agreement includes an admission to facts to support an aggravated sentence, use both Appendix A and Appendix E.

Where an unrepresented defendant is pleading guilty without an aggravated sentence, use Appendix C to these rules. Where an unrepresented defendant's plea agreement includes an admission to facts to support an aggravated sentence, use both Appendix C and Appendix F.)

**10. Appendices - Rule 15**

*Amend paragraphs 15 and 19 of Appendix A to Rule 15 as follows:*

15. I have been told by my attorney and I understand:

a. That if I wish to plead not guilty I am entitled to a trial by a jury on the issue of guilt, and all jurors would have to agree I was guilty before the jury could find me guilty.

b. That if I plead guilty I will not have a trial by either a jury or by a judge without a jury.

c. That with knowledge of my right to a trial on the issue of guilt, I now waive my right to a trial.

19. I have been told by my attorney and I understand:

a. That a person who has prior convictions or a prior conviction can be given a longer prison term because of this.

b. That the maximum penalty that the court could impose for this crime (taking into consideration any prior conviction or convictions) is imprisonment for \_\_\_\_\_ years. That if a minimum sentence is required by statute the court may impose a sentence of imprisonment of not less than \_\_\_\_\_ months for this crime.

c. That for felony driving while impaired offenses and most sex offenses, a mandatory period of conditional release will follow any executed prison sentence that is imposed. Violating the terms of this conditional release may increase the time I serve in prison. In this case, the period of conditional release is \_\_\_ years.

d. That a person who participates in a crime by intentionally aiding, advising, counseling and conspiring with another person or persons to commit a crime is just as guilty of that crime as the person or persons who are present and participating in the crime when it is actually committed.

e. That my present probation or parole could be revoked because of the plea of guilty to this crime.

f. That the prosecutor is seeking an aggravated sentence of \_\_\_\_\_.

*Amend paragraphs 15 and 19 of Appendix C to Rule 15 as follows:*

15. I understand:

a. That if I wish to plead not guilty I am entitled to a trial by a jury on the issue of guilt, and all jurors would have to agree I was guilty before the jury could find me guilty.

b. That if I plead guilty I will not have a trial by either a jury or by a judge without a jury.

c. That with knowledge of my right to a trial on the issue of guilt, I now waive my right to a trial.

19. I understand:

a. That a person who has prior convictions or a prior conviction can be given a longer prison term because of this.

b. That the maximum penalty that the court could impose for this crime (taking into consideration any prior conviction or convictions) is imprisonment for \_\_\_\_ years. That if a minimum sentence is required by statute the court may impose a sentence of imprisonment of not less than \_\_\_\_ months for this crime.

c. That a person who participates in a crime by intentionally aiding, advising, counseling and conspiring with another person or persons to commit a crime is just as guilty of that crime as the person or persons who are present and participating in the crime when it is actually committed.

d. That my present probation or parole could be revoked because of the plea of guilty to this crime.

e. That if I am not a citizen of the United States, my plea of guilty to this crime may result in deportation, exclusion from admission to the United States or denial of naturalization as a United States citizen.

f. That the prosecutor is seeking an aggravated sentence of \_\_\_\_\_.

*Add a new Appendix E to Rule 15 as follows:*

**APPENDIX E TO RULE 15**

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

IN DISTRICT COURT  
\_\_\_\_\_ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

State of Minnesota,  
Plaintiff,

PETITION REGARDING  
AGGRAVATED SENTENCE

vs.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant.

TO: THE ABOVE NAMED COURT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, defendant in the above entitled action do respectfully represent and state as follows:

1. I have pled guilty to or have otherwise been found guilty of the crime of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. I understand the presumptive guideline sentence for this offense is \_\_\_\_\_, and I could not be given an aggravated sentence greater than the presumptive sentence unless the prosecution proves facts in support of such an aggravated sentence.
3. I understand the prosecution is seeking a sentence greater than that called for in the sentencing guidelines. Specifically, I understand the sentence in this case will be \_\_\_\_\_ or will be left to the judge to decide.
4. I am represented by attorney \_\_\_\_\_ and:
  - a) I feel I have had sufficient time to discuss the issue of an aggravated sentence with my attorney.
  - b) I am satisfied my attorney is fully informed as to the facts related to an aggravated sentence, and that my attorney has discussed possible defenses I have to an aggravated sentence.
  - c) I am satisfied that my attorney has represented my interests and has fully advised me about an aggravated sentence.
5. My attorney has told me and I understand that even though I have pled guilty to or been otherwise found guilty of the crime of \_\_\_\_\_, I have the right to deny the facts alleged by the prosecution in support of an aggravated sentence.

6. My attorney has told me and I understand that I am entitled to a trial to either a jury or a judge to determine whether an aggravated sentence may be imposed upon me.

7. My attorney has told me and I understand that at such trial I have the following rights:

- a) I am presumed not to be subject to an aggravated sentence.
- b) The prosecution must prove facts supporting an aggravated sentence to either a jury or a judge beyond a reasonable doubt.
- c) That before a jury could find facts supporting an aggravated sentence, all jurors would have to agree. That means the jury's decision must be unanimous.
- d) That at a trial before either a jury or a judge, the prosecution will be required to call witnesses in open court and in my presence, and I, through my attorney, will have the right to question the witnesses.
- e) That I may require any witnesses I think are favorable to me to appear and testify on my behalf.
- f) That I may testify at such a trial if I wish to, but that if I choose not to testify, neither the prosecution nor the judge could comment to the jury about the failure to testify.
- g) That if I admit the facts in support of an aggravated sentence, I will not have a trial to either a jury or a judge.

8. That with knowledge of my right to a trial on the facts in support of an aggravated sentence, I now waive my right to a trial.

9. I now waive my right not to testify and I will tell the judge about the facts which support an aggravated sentence.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Defendant



*Add a new Appendix F to Rule 15 as follows:*

**APPENDIX F TO RULE 15**

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

IN DISTRICT COURT  
\_\_\_\_\_ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

State of Minnesota,  
Plaintiff,

PETITION REGARDING  
AGGRAVATED SENTENCE  
BY PRO SE DEFENDANT

vs.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant.

TO: THE ABOVE NAMED COURT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, defendant in the above entitled action do respectfully represent and state as follows:

1. I have pled guilty to or have otherwise been found guilty of the crime of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. I understand the presumptive guideline sentence for this offense is \_\_\_\_\_, and I could not be given an aggravated sentence greater than the presumptive sentence unless the prosecution proves facts in support of such an aggravated sentence.
3. I understand the prosecution is seeking a sentence greater than that called for in the sentencing guidelines. Specifically, I understand the sentence in this case will be \_\_\_\_\_ or will be left to the judge to decide.
4. I understand that although I have pled guilty to or have otherwise been found guilty of the crime of \_\_\_\_\_, I have the right to deny the facts alleged by the prosecution in support of an aggravated sentence.
5. I understand that I am entitled to a trial by either a jury or a judge to determine whether an aggravated sentence may be imposed upon me.
6. I understand that I have an absolute right to have an attorney represent me at such trial and knowing the consequences of giving up my right to counsel, I waive my right to be represented by an attorney.
7. I understand that at a trial to a jury or a judge to determine if an aggravated sentence may be imposed upon me, I have the following rights:

- a) I am presumed not to be subject to an aggravated sentence.
- b) The prosecution must prove facts supporting an aggravated sentence to either a jury or a judge beyond a reasonable doubt.
- c) That before a jury could find facts supporting an aggravated sentence, all jurors would have to agree. That means the jury's decision would have to be unanimous.
- d) That at a trial before either a jury or a judge, the prosecution will be required to call witnesses in open court and in my presence, and that I would have the right to question the witnesses.
- e) That I may require any witnesses I think are favorable to me to appear and testify on my behalf.
- f) That I may testify at such a trial if I wish to, but that if I choose not to testify, neither the prosecution nor the judge could comment to the jury about the failure to testify.
- g) That if I admit the facts in support of an aggravated sentence, I will not have a trial to either a jury or a judge.

8. That with knowledge of my right to a trial on the facts in support of an aggravated sentence, I now waive my right to a trial.

9. I now waive my right not to testify and I will tell the judge about the facts which support an aggravated sentence.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Defendant

## 11. Rule 19.04. Appearance of Defendant Before Court

*Amend Rule 19.04, subd. 6 as follows:*

### **Subd. 6. Notice by Prosecuting Attorney.**

(1) *Notice of Evidence and Identification Procedures.* When the prosecution has (1) any evidence against the defendant obtained as a result of a search, search and seizure, wiretapping, or any form of electronic or mechanical eavesdropping, (2) any confessions, admissions or statements in the nature of confessions made by the defendant, (3) any evidence against the defendant discovered as the result of confessions, admissions or statements in the nature of confessions made by the defendant, or (4) when in the investigation of the case against the defendant, any identification procedures were followed, including but not limited to lineups or other observations of the defendant and the exhibition of photographs of the defendant or of any other persons, the prosecuting attorney, on or before the date set for defendant's arraignment, shall notify the defendant or defense counsel in writing of such evidence and identification procedures.

(2) *Notice of Additional Offenses.* The prosecuting attorneys shall notify the defendant or defense counsel in writing of any additional offenses the evidence of which may be offered at the trial under any exceptions to the general exclusionary rule. The notice shall be given at the Omnibus Hearing under Rule 11 or as soon thereafter as the offense becomes known to the prosecuting attorney. Such additional offenses shall be described with sufficient particularity to enable the defendant to prepare for trial. The notice need not include offenses for which the defendant has been previously prosecuted, or those that may be offered in rebuttal of the defendant's character witnesses or as a part of the occurrence or episode out of which the offense charged in the indictment arose.

(3) *Notice of Intent to Seek Aggravated Sentence.* At least seven days prior to the Omnibus Hearing, or at such later time if permitted by the court and upon such conditions as will not unfairly prejudice the defendant, the prosecuting attorney shall notify the defendant or defense counsel in writing of intent to seek an aggravated sentence. The notice shall include the grounds or statutes relied upon and a summary statement of the factual basis supporting the aggravated sentence.

## 12. Comments – Rule 19

*Amend the comments to Rule 19 by adding a new paragraph after the existing twelfth paragraph of those comments as follows:*

Rule 19.04, subd. 6(3), which establishes the notice requirements for a prosecuting attorney seeking an aggravated sentence in proceedings prosecuted by indictment, parallels Rule 7.03 which establishes those requirements for proceedings prosecuted by complaint. See the comments to that other rule. Also see Rule 1.04 (d) which defines “aggravated sentence” and the comments to that rule.

**13. Rule 26. Trial**

*Amend Rule 26.01, subd. 1 as follows:*

**Subd. 1. Trial by Jury.**

(1) *Right to Jury Trial.*

(a) **Offenses Punishable by Incarceration.** A defendant shall be entitled to a jury trial in any prosecution for an offense punishable by incarceration. All trials shall be in the district court.

(b) **Misdemeanors Not Punishable by Incarceration.** In any prosecution for the violation of a misdemeanor not punishable by incarceration, trial shall be to the court.

(2) *Waiver of Trial by Jury.*

(a) **Waiver-~~Generally~~ on the Issue of Guilt.** The defendant, with the approval of the court may waive jury trial on the issue of guilt provided the defendant does so personally in writing or orally upon the record in open court, after being advised by the court of the right to trial by jury and after having had an opportunity to consult with counsel.

(b) **Waiver on the Issue of an Aggravated Sentence.** Where an aggravated sentence is sought by the prosecution, the defendant, with the approval of the court, may waive jury trial on the facts in support of an aggravated sentence provided the defendant does so personally in writing or orally upon the record in open court, after being advised by the court of the right to a trial by jury and after having had an opportunity to consult with counsel.

(~~b~~c) **Waiver When Prejudicial Publicity.** The defendant shall be permitted to waive jury trial whenever it is determined that (a) the waiver has been knowingly and voluntarily made, and (b) there is reason to believe that, as the result of the dissemination of potentially prejudicial material, the waiver is required to assure the likelihood of a fair trial.

(3) *Withdrawal of Waiver of Jury Trial.* Waiver of jury trial may be withdrawn by the defendant at any time before the commencement of trial.

(4) *Waiver of Number of Jurors Required by Law.* At any time before verdict, the parties, with the approval of the court, may stipulate that the jury shall consist of a lesser number than that provided by law. The court shall not approve such a stipulation unless the defendant, after being advised by the court of the right to trial by a jury consisting of the number of jurors provided by law, personally in writing or orally on the record in open court agrees to trial by such reduced jury.

(5) *Number Required for Verdict.* A unanimous verdict shall be required in all cases.

(6) *Waiver of Unanimous Verdict.* At any time before verdict, the parties, with the approval of the court, may stipulate that the jury may render a verdict on the concurrence of a specified number of jurors less than that required by law or these rules. The court shall not approve such a stipulation unless the defendant, after being advised by the court of the right to a verdict on the concurrence of the number of jurors specified

by law, personally in writing or orally on the record waives the right to such a verdict.

*Amend Rule 26.01, subd. 3 as follows:*

**Subd. 3. Trial on Stipulated Facts.** By agreement of the defendant and the prosecuting attorney, a easedetermination of defendant's guilt, or the existence of facts to support an aggravated sentence, or both, may be submitted to and tried by the court based on stipulated facts. Before proceeding in this manner, the defendant shall acknowledge and waive the rights to testify at trial, to have the prosecution witnesses testify in open court in the defendant's presence, to question those prosecution witnesses, and to require any favorable witnesses to testify for the defense in court. The agreement and the waiver shall be in writing or orally on the record. If this procedure is utilized for determination of defendant's guilt and the existence of facts to support an aggravated sentence, there shall be a separate waiver as to each issue. Upon submission of the case on stipulated facts, the court shall proceed as on any other trial to the court. If the defendant is found guilty based on the stipulated facts, the defendant may appeal from the judgment of conviction and raise issues on appeal the same as from any trial to the court.

*Amend Rule 26.03, subd. 17 as follows:*

**Subd. 17. Motion for Judgment of Acquittal or Insufficiency of Evidence to Support an Aggravated Sentence.**

(1) Motions Before Submission to Jury. Motions for directed verdict are abolished and motions for judgment of acquittal shall be used in their place. After the evidence on either side is closed, the court on motion of a defendant or on its initiative shall order the entry of a judgment of acquittal of one or more offenses charged in the tab charge, indictment or complaint if the evidence is insufficient to sustain a conviction of such offense or offenses. The court shall also, on motion of the defendant or on its initiative, order that any grounds for an aggravated sentence be withdrawn from consideration by the jury if the evidence is insufficient.

(2) Reservation of Decision on Motion. If the defendant's motion is made at the close of the evidence offered by the prosecution, the court may not reserve decision of the motion. If the defendant's motion is made at the close of all the evidence, the court may reserve decision on the motion, submit the case to the jury and decide the motion either before the jury returns a verdict or after it returns a verdict or is discharged without having returned a verdict. If the defendant's motion is granted after the jury returns a verdict of guilty, the court shall make written findings specifying its reasons for entering a judgment of acquittal.

(3) Motion After Discharge of Jury. If the jury returns a verdict of guilty or is discharged without having returned a verdict, a motion for judgment of acquittal or insufficiency of evidence to support an aggravated sentence may be made or renewed within 15 days after the jury is discharged or within such further time as the court may fix during the 15-day period. If a verdict of guilty is returned the court may on such motion set aside the verdict and enter judgment of acquittal, in which case the court shall make written findings specifying its reasons for entering a judgment of acquittal. If no verdict

is returned, the court may enter judgment of acquittal. Such a motion is not barred by defendant's failure to make a similar motion prior to the submission of the case to the jury.

*Amend Rule 26.03, subd. 18 as follows:*

**Subd. 18. Instructions.**

(1) *Requests for Instructions.* At the close of the evidence or at such earlier time during the trial as the court reasonably directs, any party may file written requests that the court instruct the jury on the law as set forth in the requests. At the same time copies of such requests shall be furnished to all parties. The court shall inform counsel of its proposed action upon the requests prior to the arguments to the jury, and such action shall be made a part of the record.

(2) *Proposed Instructions.* The court may, and upon request of any party shall, before the arguments to the jury, inform counsel what instructions will be given and all such instructions may be stated to the jury by either party as a part of the party's argument.

(3) *Objections to Instructions.* No party may assign as error any portion of the charge or omission therefrom unless the party objects thereto before the jury retires to consider its verdict. The matter to which objection is made and the grounds of the objection shall be specifically stated. Opportunity shall be given to make the objection out of the hearing of the jury and, on request of any party, out of the presence of the jury. All objections to instructions and the rulings thereon shall be included in the record. All instructions, whether given or refused, shall be made a part of the record. An error in the instructions with respect to fundamental law or controlling principle may be assigned in a motion for a new trial though it was not otherwise called to the attention of the court.

(4) *Giving of Instructions.* The court in its discretion shall instruct the jury either before or after the arguments are completed except, at the discretion of the court, preliminary instructions need not be repeated. The instructions may be in writing and in the discretion of the court a copy may be taken to the jury room when the jury retires for deliberation.

(5) *Contents of Instructions.* In charging the jury the court shall state all matters of law which are necessary for the jury's information in rendering a verdict and shall inform the jury that it is the exclusive judge of all questions of fact. The court shall not comment on the evidence or the credibility of the witnesses, but may state the respective claims of the parties.

(6) *Verdict Forms.* The court shall submit appropriate forms of verdict to the jury for its consideration. Where an aggravated sentence is sought, the court shall submit the issue(s) to the jury by special interrogatory.

*Amend Rule 26.03, subd. 19 as follows:*

**Subd. 19. Jury Deliberations and Verdict.**

(1) *Materials to Jury Room.* The court shall permit the jury, upon retiring for deliberation, to take to the jury room exhibits which have been received in evidence, or copies thereof, except depositions and may permit a copy of the instructions to be taken to the jury room.

(2) *Jury Requests to Review Evidence.*

1. If the jury, after retiring for deliberation, requests a review of certain testimony or other evidence, the jurors shall be conducted to the courtroom. The court, after notice to the prosecutor and defense counsel, may have the requested parts of the testimony read to the jury and permit the jury to re-examine the requested materials admitted into evidence.

2. The court need not submit evidence to the jury for review beyond that specifically requested by the jury, but in its discretion the court may also have the jury review other evidence relating to the same factual issue so as not to give undue prominence to the evidence requested.

(3) *Additional Instructions After Jury Retires.*

1. If the jury, after retiring for deliberation, desires to be informed on any point of law, the jurors, after notice to the prosecutor and defense counsel, shall be conducted to the courtroom. The court shall give appropriate additional instructions in response to the jury's request unless:

(a) the jury may be adequately informed by directing their attention to some portion of the original instructions;

(b) the request concerns matters not in evidence or questions which do not pertain to the law of the case;

or (c) the request would call upon the judge to express an opinion upon factual matters that the jury should determine.

2. The court need not give additional instructions beyond those specifically requested by the jury, but in its discretion the court may also give or repeat other instructions to avoid giving undue prominence to the requested instructions.

3. The court after notice to the prosecutor and defense counsel may recall the jury after it has retired and give any additional instructions as the court deems appropriate.

(4) *Deadlocked Jury.* The jury may be discharged without having agreed upon a verdict if it appears that there is no reasonable probability of agreement.

(5) *Polling the Jury.* When a verdict on the issue of guilt is rendered and before the jury has been discharged, the jury shall be polled at the request of any party or upon the court's initiative. When the jury has answered special interrogatories relating to an aggravated sentence, the jury shall be polled at the request of any party or upon the court's initiative as to their answers. The poll(s) shall be conducted by the court or clerk of court who shall ask each juror individually whether the verdict announced is the juror's verdict. If ~~the~~either poll does not conform to the verdict, the jury may be directed to retire for further deliberation or may be discharged.

(6) *Impeachment of Verdict.* Affidavits of jurors shall not be received in evidence to impeach their verdict. A defendant who has reason to believe that the verdict

is subject to impeachment, shall move the court for a summary hearing. If the motion is granted the jurors shall be interrogated under oath and their testimony recorded. The admissibility of evidence at the hearing shall be governed by Rule 606(b) of the Minnesota Rules of Evidence.

(7) *Partial Verdict.* The court may accept a partial verdict when the jury has agreed on a verdict on less than all of the charges submitted, but is unable to agree on the remainder.

***Amend Rule 26.04, subd. 1 as follows:***

**Subd. 1. New Trial.**

(1) *Grounds.* The court on written motion of the defendant may grant a new trial on the issue of guilt or the existence of facts to support an aggravated sentence, or both, on any of the following grounds:

1. If required in the interests of justice;
2. Irregularity in the proceedings of the court, jury, or on the part of the prosecution, or any order or abuse of discretion, whereby the defendant was deprived of a fair trial;
3. Misconduct of the jury or prosecution;
4. Accident or surprise which could not have been prevented by ordinary prudence;
5. Material evidence, newly discovered, which with reasonable diligence could not have been found and produced at the trial;
6. Errors of law occurring at the trial, and objected to at the time or, if no objection is required by these rules, assigned in the motion;
7. The verdict or finding of guilty is not justified by the evidence, or is contrary to law.

(2) *Basis of Motion.* A motion for new trial shall be made and heard on the files, exhibits and minutes of the court. Pertinent facts that would not be a part of the minutes may be shown by affidavit except as otherwise provided by these rules. A full or partial transcript of the court reporter's notes of the testimony taken at the trial or other verbatim recording thereof may be used on the hearing of the motion.

(3) *Time for Motion.* Notice of a motion for a new trial shall be served within 15 days after verdict or finding of guilty. The motion shall be heard within 30 days after the verdict or finding of guilty, unless the time for hearing be extended by the court within the 30-day period for good cause shown.

(4) *Time for Serving Affidavits.* When a motion for new trial is based on affidavits, they shall be served with the notice of motion. The opposing party shall have 10 days after such service in which to serve opposing affidavits, which period may be extended by the court upon an order extending the time for hearing under this rule. The court may permit reply affidavits.



**14. Comments – Rule 26**

***Amend the ninth, tenth, and eleventh paragraphs of the comments to Rule 26 as follows:***

Rule 26.01, subd. 1(2)(a) (Waiver of Trial by Jury ~~Generally on the Issue of Guilt~~) is based upon F.R.Crim.P. 23(a), ABA Standards, Trial by Jury, 1.2(b) (Approved Draft, 1968) and continues substantially present Minnesota law (Minn. Stat. § 631.01 (1971)) except that waiver of jury trial by the defendant requires the approval of the court. Rule 26.01, subd. 1(2)(b) establishes the procedure for waiver of a jury on the issue of an aggravated sentence. See *Blakely v. Washington*, 542 U.S. 196, 124 S.Ct. 2531 (2004) and *State v. Shattuck*, 704 N.W.2d 131 (Minn. 2005) as to the constitutional limitations on imposing aggravated sentences based on findings of fact beyond the elements of the offense and the conviction history. Also, see Rules 1.04 (d), 7.03, and 11.04 and the comments to those rules. Whether a defendant has waived or demanded a jury on the issue of guilt, that defendant is still entitled to a jury trial on the issue of an aggravated sentence and a valid waiver under Rule 26.01, subd. 1(2)(b) is necessary before an aggravated sentence may be imposed based on findings not made by jury trial.

Rule 26.01, subd. 1(2)(~~b~~c) (Waiver When Prejudicial Publicity)

Under Rule 26.01, subd. 2(2)(~~b~~c), the defendant shall be permitted to waive jury trial if required to assure the likelihood of a fair trial when there has been a dissemination of potentially prejudicial material. (See ABA Standards, Fair Trial and Free Press, 3.3 (Approved Draft, 1968).)

***Amend the sixty-eighth paragraph of the comments to Rule 26 as follows:***

Rule 26.03, subd. 17 (Motion for Judgment of Acquittal or Insufficiency of Evidence to Support an Aggravated Sentence) abolishing motions for directed verdict, and providing for motions for judgment of acquittal is taken from F.R.Crim.P. 29(a)(b)(c) and ABA Standards, Trial by Jury, 4.5(a)(b)(c) (Approved Draft, 1968). Such a motion by the defendant, if not granted, should not be deemed to withdraw the case from the jury or to bar the defendant from offering evidence. (See F.R.Crim.P. 29(a), ABA Standards, Trial by Jury, 4.5(a) (Approved Draft, 1968).) A defendant is also entitled to a jury determination of any facts beyond the elements of the offense or conviction history that might be used to aggravate the sentence. *Blakely v. Washington*, 542 U.S. 196, 124 S.Ct. 2531 (2004); *State v. Shattuck*, 704 N.W.2d 131 (Minn. 2005). If such a trial is held, the rule also provides that the defendant may challenge the sufficiency of the evidence presented.

***Amend the comments to Rule 26 by adding a new paragraph after the existing seventy-third paragraph of the comments (referring to Rule 26.03, subd. 18 (5)) as follows:***

Rule 26.03, subd. 18(6) (Verdict Forms) requires that where aggravated sentence issues are presented to a jury, the court shall submit the issues to the jury by special

interrogatory. For a sample form for that purpose see CRIMJIG 8.01 of the Minnesota Criminal Jury Instruction Guide. When that is done, Rule 26.03, subd. 19(5) permits any of the parties to request that the jury be polled as to their answers.

**15. Rule 27.03. Sentencing Proceedings**

***Amend Rule 27.03, subd. 1(A) as follows:***

(A) At the time of, or within three days after a plea, finding or verdict of guilty of a felony, the court may order a presentence investigation and shall order that a sentencing worksheet be completed. As part of any presentence investigation and report, the court may order a mental or physical examination of the defendant. The court shall also then:

- (1) Set a date for the return of the report of the presentence investigation.
- (2) Set a date, time and place for the sentencing.
- (3) Order the defendant to return at such date, time and place.
- (4) If the facts ascertained at the time of a plea or through trial cause the judge to consider a mitigated departure from the sentencing guidelines appropriate, the court shall advise counsel of such consideration.