

Dakota County Mandate Recommendation

Closed Meetings for Labor Negotiations			
Mandate	Statute	Rule	Comment
Eliminate “Procedure” subdivision and “Meeting must be recorded” subdivision within the Closed Meetings for Labor Negotiations mandate.	13D.03, Subd. 1 & 2		Subdivision 2, recording of meetings, creates an imbalance in the negotiating process as all the employer's negotiation strategy must ultimately be revealed to the union while the union's strategy is not similarly revealed leaving the employer –and taxpayers—at a strategic disadvantage. Certain negotiating strategies are multi-year and multi-contract in nature, but making recordings of such discussions defeats such long-term strategies to the disadvantage of the employer and taxpayers, and the revelation that all members of an employer negotiating team might not have supported a successful contract proposal could negatively influence future contract negotiation and create disharmony within the workplace.