



## CANTERBURY PARK

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1100 Canterbury Road  
Shakopee, MN 55379

# Judge Denies Request; Canterbury Cancels Racing July 3 and 4

## *July 3 Fireworks Spectacular Also Canceled*

### ***For Immediate Release:***

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Shakopee, MN -- At 2:15 pm Saturday, Ramsey County Chief Judge Kathleen Gearin issued a ruling, denying Canterbury's request that the Minnesota Racing Commission (MRC) continue to operate during the state shutdown. With no regulatory body in place, Canterbury Park was forced to cancel racing programs for July 3 and 4. Racing on July 1 and 2 had already been canceled due to the state shutdown. The MRC, which is fully funded by the racing industry, oversees gaming at the state's two racetracks.

"I am extremely disappointed in Judge Gearin's interpretation and ruling," Canterbury Park President Randy Sampson said. "We will seek an expedited appeals process. This is potentially devastating to Minnesota's racing industry."

"With no chance for the 1,300 horses stabled on the backside to compete for purse money, the danger is that trainers will begin to take their stables from Minnesota and once they do, they will not return," Sampson said. "This ruling puts the entire season in jeopardy."

On Thursday, Canterbury Park distributed notices to more than 1,000 licensed employees indicating they would be placed on a temporary unpaid leave of absence until operations were allowed to resume.

(MORE)

The MRC receives license fees from racetracks as well as all employees and horsemen. They also are paid in advance for expected expenses. No general fund dollars are used to operate the MRC. “The company has paid a license fee, the employees, the horsemen and the vendors have too. The expectation is that the MRC regulate our business,” Sampson said. “The MRC’s expenses for July have already been paid.”

The Fourth of July weekend is important for the company and popular with race fans. The yearly July 3 fireworks display traditionally attracts 12,000 viewers. With the shutdown, the fireworks display will not be held.

“I appreciate the support and patience of the horsemen and our race fans,” Sampson said. “The state shutdown did not need to impact the racing industry and its employees.”

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