

Judge: Teen must see cancer specialist.

Minn. family rejected chemo and radiation

By Amy Forliti
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — A Minnesota couple who refused chemotherapy for their 13-year-old son was ordered yesterday to have the boy re-evaluated to see if he'd still benefit from the treatment — or if it may already be too late.

Brown County District Judge John Rodenberg found Daniel Hauser was “medically neglected” by his parents, Colleen and Anthony Hauser, who belong to a religious group that believes in using only natural healing practiced by some American Indians.

The judge allowed Daniel to stay with his parents, noting they love him and acted in good faith, but he gave them until Tuesday to get an updated chest X-ray and select an oncologist.

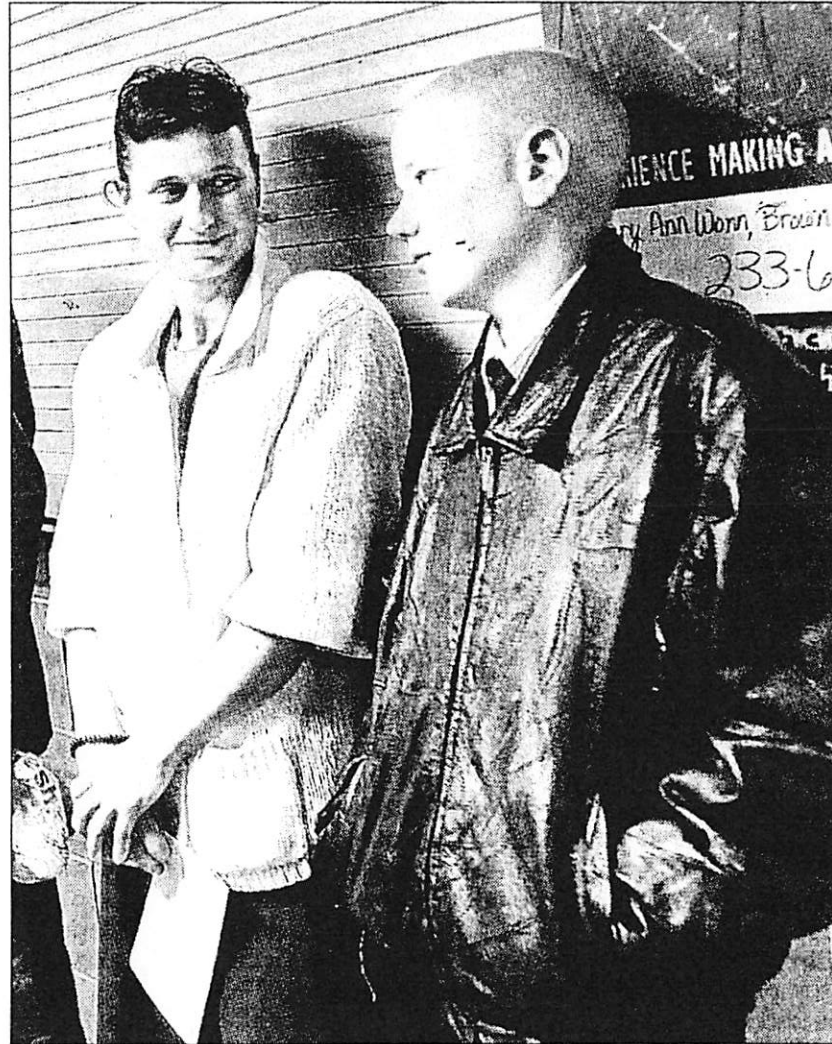
If the tumor has not grown and Daniel's prognosis remains as optimistic as doctors testified last week, then chemotherapy and possible radiation appear to be in

Daniel's best interest, Rodenberg wrote. “The State has successfully shown by clear and convincing evidence that continued chemotherapy is medically necessary,” he wrote, adding he would not order chemotherapy if doctors find the cancer has advanced to a point where it is “too late.”

If chemotherapy is ordered and the family refuses, the judge said, Daniel will be placed in temporary custody. Calvin Johnson, the Hausers' attorney, said they are considering an appeal. For now, Daniel is following the order and will have X-rays Monday.

Daniel was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma in January and it was recommended he have six rounds of chemotherapy. He did one in February, but stopped after that. He and his parents opted instead for “alternative medicines,” citing religious beliefs.

Doctors have said Daniel's cancer had a 90 percent chance of being cured with chemotherapy and radiation. Without the treatments, doctors said his chances of survival are 5 percent. Child protection workers accused Daniel's parents of medical neglect, and went to court seeking custody.



Kyndell Harkness/The Star Tribune, via Associated Press

Colleen Hauser smiled at her son Daniel, 13, as they answered questions from the media in New Ulm, Minn. Daniel, who resists chemotherapy for cancer, will likely die without the treatment, doctors testified.