

DCT 2026 Legislative Fast Facts

Authorizing Staff to Help Respond to MSOP Data Disputes

Issue Summary

Civily committed clients at the Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP) have the right to request, review and challenge the accuracy or completeness of data that the program keeps about them. Each year, MSOP receives about 3,000 such data requests from clients or representatives acting on their behalf.

When Direct Care and Treatment (DCT) was part of the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), requests for MSOP client data were submitted to the Data Practice Compliance Official at DHS, which oversaw the processing. Due to the high volume of these requests, a designated DCT staff member assisted DHS officials with responses. This was allowed under statute.

On July 1, 2025, DCT officially separated from DHS and became a standalone state agency. At the time, the statute was updated to reflect that MSOP client data requests and challenges would now to be directed to the DCT Data Practice Compliance Official in the new agency. However, the statute was not updated to also allow for a DCT designee to assist with the requests, as had been a longstanding prior practice under DHS. The volume of requests cannot be processed in a timely way without more help.

Proposal

This proposal will allow a DCT designee to help the DCT Data Practice Compliance Official respond to challenges to the accuracy or completeness of MSOP client data and codify a longstanding practice into statute.

Why It's Important

Each year, MSOP clients submit more than 3,000 data requests. By contrast, patients and clients in all other DCT programs submitted a combined total of just 100 data requests in 2024. This change will allow DCT to respond to these requests in a timelier manner.