



Internal Memo

Date: December 11, 2025
To: Friends and Family of Incarcerated Persons
From: Paul Schnell, Commissioner

RE: December Update on MCF-Stillwater

Minnesota Correctional Facility (MCF) - Stillwater remains in Phase 1 of the prison's phased closure plan. The facility continues to focus on stability and planning for next steps.

Programming at Stillwater

Staff and incarcerated people are adjusting to life in the Earned Living Units (ELUs). In late November, media were invited to tour the ELUs, visit the Stillwaters Run Deep tattoo shop, the Street Cuts barber shop, and the Prison Mirror (MCF-Stillwater's incarcerated person-led newspaper) office, as well as learn more about the Atlantis substance use disorder treatment program.

- [Star Tribune](#)
- [Pioneer Press](#)
- [KARE 11](#)
- [MPR](#)

Other DOC Facilities

DOC leaders continue to look for ways to bring incentives for positive, pro-social behavior to all facilities. Because each facility is unique, so will be each facility's approach to providing opportunities and incentives for its incarcerated population.

Future Communications

This is likely to be the final memo about Stillwater and facilities for 2025. The DOC will continue to work toward positive changes to better serve incarcerated individuals and their families.