



Internal Memo

Date: July 31, 2025

To: Friends and Family of Incarcerated Persons

From: Paul Schnell, Commissioner

RE: MCF–Stillwater Update: Facility Changes and What’s Ahead

The Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) is continuing to prepare for changes at MCF–Stillwater to achieve the goal of creating a smaller and more specialized facility by October 1, 2025. Here’s what you should know this week:

MCF–Stillwater (STW) Population Update:

- The current population of MCF–Stillwater is now below 800.

STW Populations and Programs:

Education

- Individual reviews have been completed for 104 incarcerated individuals in Stillwater who are planning to attend Minneapolis College or Metro State University this fall.
- Individuals who have been approved to transfer to either MCF–Faribault or MCF–Lino Lakes to continue their education, the only two facilities with approval from the US Department of Education to run these programs, will move in August between summer and fall semesters.

Programs

- **Atlantis Program:** the program is reaching capacity with more participants beginning next week.
- **Earned Living Units (ELU):** More than 430 applications have been received. Staff will be visiting facilities to meet with applicants.
- **Restrictive Housing:** Beginning August 1, new placements will be coming to MCF–Stillwater from other DOC facilities.

We will continue to provide weekly updates like this one to keep you informed. Friends and family members may view this same information on the DOC’s website.