STATEWIDE ADULT COMMUNITY SUPERVISION STANDARDS

PURPOSE

Minnesota's statewide community supervision standards establish a consistent, equitable, and evidence-based framework for supervision across all delivery systems.

The standards are grounded in the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model and are intended to ensure that:

a) supervision intensity is proportionate to assessed risk;
b) interventions target criminogenic needs;
c) supervision and interventions are responsive to individual characteristics; and
d) individuals are not subjected to supervision, monitoring, or intervention beyond what is necessary to promote behavior change, support compliance, and protect public safety.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all community supervision agencies in Minnesota across all delivery systems, including:

- Community Corrections Act (CCA);
- County Probation Officer (CPO); and
- Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC).

DEFINITIONS

Case Planning – a collaborative, structured framework designed to reduce a client's risk of reoffending by building skills through cognitive behavioral interventions addressing a client's criminogenic needs. Unlike monitoring compliance with conditions, case planning is an evidence-based practice that supports behavior change through a sequence of connected steps. An agency's case planning framework includes processes such as engagement, assessment, normative feedback, focus and alignment, goal setting, on-going skill practice, and transition.

Criminogenic Needs –attributes that directly contribute to an individual's likelihood of engaging in future criminal behavior and that can be changed through interventions. (Examples include the ability to cope with life's stressors in a healthy way, the ability to identify positive peers, ability to make good decisions.)

Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) – strategies and techniques proven through rigorous empirical research to reduce recidivism, such as motivational interviewing, case planning, targeting more interventions to higher-risk individuals and less intervention to lower-risk individuals, targeting an individual's thinking and behaviors through skill building, personalizing the approach for the best outcomes, and engaging community support.

Risk – the likelihood that a client will reoffend, as determined through a validated risk assessment.
Responsivity – individual characteristics that can affect an individual's response to interventions, such as motivation, cognitive abilities, mental health, and learning style.

1. General Responsivity – Justice-involved individuals are more successful when they have a professional alliance with their agent and more success when the agent uses cognitive behavioral interventions to building skills targeting the individual's criminogenic needs.

2. Specific Responsivity - The individual's specific situation and characteristics must be considered with client interventions. Some of many such considerations are a client's learning style, motivation, abilities, and cultural context.

Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Model – a framework supported by extensive research, comprised of principles guiding effective client rehabilitation. Key principles include directing more intervention to higher-risk individuals and less intervention for lower-risk individuals (Risk Principle); targeting criminogenic needs through case planning and intervention (Need Principle); and tailoring interventions to an individual's learning style, motivation, and abilities (Responsivity Principle).

Supervision Level

The level of structure, monitoring, contact, and intervention associated with an individual's assessed risk.

PROCEDURES

A. RISK PRINCIPLE

1. Match Supervision and Intervention to Assessed Risk

The Risk Principle establishes who should receive supervision and intervention and at what intensity.

Higher-risk individuals shall receive greater supervision and intervention, while lower-risk individuals shall receive less intensive intervention. Agencies and supervising agents shall avoid unnecessary intervention and over-supervision of lower-risk individuals. All agencies must:

a) Utilize the statewide approved risk/need assessment instrument in accordance with applicable statewide assessment policy 620.10.
b) Use assessment results to establish the individual's initial supervision level.
c) Apply the statewide five-level supervision framework.
d) Meet the statewide minimum contact standard associated with the individual's supervision level.
e) Avoid imposing supervision contacts, restrictions, monitoring, or interventions beyond what is reasonably necessary to support compliance, promote rehabilitation, and ensure public safety
f) Reassess risk in accordance with statewide assessment policy.
g) Consider changes in assessed risk and relevant behavior when determining whether supervision intensity should increase or decrease.
h) Document supervision-level changes and the basis for those changes.

2. Statewide Minimum Supervision Standards

Level	Profile (Typical Needs/Risk)	Minimum Contact	Intervention Posture
I (Very Low)	Non-offending profile;	**Minimal/Administrative monitoring**; (phone, Client Supervision Portal, mail)	No added treatment expected due to low risk/needs; maintain administrative checks only.
II (Low)	Vulnerable prosocial profile;	**Quarterly** compliance monitoring;	Change-focused interventions **as needed**; minimal impact expected due to low risk.

Level	Profile (Typical Needs/Risk)	Minimum Contact	Intervention Posture
III (Medium)	Average offending profile; *	**Monthly** *in-person*	Provide change-focused interventions; significant impact expected; many will progress to Level II.
IV (High)	Persistent offending profile;	**Twice monthly** *in-person.*	Provide structured change-focused interventions; risk reduction is gradual; some move to Level III/II over time.
V (Very High)	Entrenched criminal profile	**Weekly** *in-person.*	Intensive long-term interventions prioritizing readiness and behavioral management; some may later progress to lower levels.

Minimum contact standards establish the minimum statewide expectation for supervision. Misdemeanants not classified as targeted do not require a prescreen/assessment and shall be supervised as Very Low/Level 1.

The frequency of contact does not, by itself, constitute effective supervision. Contacts should have a purpose consistent with the individual's assessed risk, criminogenic needs, case plan, and responsivity factors.

3. Local Agency Discretion

Unless otherwise required by statute or statewide policy, agencies may establish local policy regarding:

a) office contacts;
b) field contacts;
c) virtual contacts;
d) telephone or electronic contacts;
e) use of client supervision portals;
f) methods for completing administrative monitoring;
g) non-targeted misdemeanors that need not be placed on supervision;
h) assignment of cases and caseload structure; and
i) additional contacts when justified by individual circumstances.

Local practices must remain consistent with the Risk Principle and shall not routinely result in over-supervision of lower-risk individuals.

B. NEED PRINCIPLE

1. Target Criminogenic Needs to Reduce Recidivism

The Need Principle establishes what supervision and intervention should focus on.

For individuals requiring behavior-change intervention, supervision shall prioritize criminogenic needs identified through assessment and case planning.

Compliance with court or releasing-authority conditions remains an important component of supervision; however, monitoring compliance alone does not constitute case planning or behavior-change intervention. Agencies must:

a) Identify criminogenic needs through the statewide assessment process.
b) Prioritize criminogenic needs when determining behavior-change interventions.
c) Complete case planning in accordance with statewide case planning policy 620.020.

d) Use cognitive behavioral and other evidence-based interventions consistent with identified needs.
e) Focus greater intervention resources on individuals with greater assessed risk and needs.
f) Avoid requiring unnecessary programming or interventions for individuals assessed as low or very low risk when those interventions are not otherwise legally required.

For individuals at medium risk and above, case planning and supervision contacts should focus on identified criminogenic needs and development of skills associated with reducing future criminal behavior.

2. Cognitive Behavioral Interventions

Cognitive behavioral interventions may be delivered individually or in groups.

Interventions should provide opportunities for individuals to learn, practice, and apply skills associated with identified criminogenic needs.

Agencies may determine locally:

a) which approved cognitive behavioral interventions are used;
b) whether interventions are provided internally or through community providers;
c) whether interventions occur individually or in groups;
d) how community resources are incorporated into case plans.

C. RESPONSIVITY PRINCIPLE

1. Individualize How Supervision and Intervention are Delivered

The Responsivity Principle establishes how supervision and intervention should be delivered.

Agents shall consider individual characteristics and circumstances that may affect an individual's ability to participate in and benefit from supervision and intervention. Agents must:

a) use strategies intended to establish and maintain an effective professional working alliance;
b) adapt communication and intervention strategies when necessary to support understanding and engagement;
c) consider motivation, abilities, learning style, and other relevant individual circumstances when determining how interventions are delivered.
d) be responsive to gender, trauma and cultural differences.
e) responsivity does not require agencies to provide every requested service or accommodation. It requires reasonable consideration of individual factors when selecting and delivering supervision strategies and interventions.

2. Local Agency Discretion

Agencies may determine how responsivity is operationalized locally, including:

a) methods of client engagement;
b) delivery format for interventions;
c) use of virtual or in-person services;
d) community referrals;
e) culturally responsive resources;
f) accommodations within agency capacity; and
g) use of local programs and community partnerships.

D. SUPERVISION LEVEL TRANSITIONS

Supervision level should reflect current assessed risk and relevant supervision information rather than functioning as a fixed classification for the duration of supervision.

1. Reduction in Supervision

For individuals assessed at Medium Risk or above, a reduction in supervision level must occur based upon:

a) documented reduction in assessed risk; or
b) an absence of significant or repeated violations combined with evidence of meaningful progress, such as:
    i. increased stability in areas such as housing, employment, education, or relationships; and
    ii. demonstrated use of skills; or
    iii. progress toward case plan goals, per policy 620.020;

Absent a reassessment demonstrating reduced risk, agencies should consider a period of a minimum of 90 days of sustained progress before reducing supervision intensity.

2. Increase in Supervision

An increase in supervision level may occur when supported by:

a) increased assessed risk;
b) new criminal behavior;
c) significant antisocial behavior;
d) repeated or serious technical violations despite prior interventions; or
e) behavior indicating escalating risk to the community or identifiable victims.

A technical violation alone does not automatically require an increase in supervision level. The response should consider the nature of the behavior, assessed risk, criminogenic needs, prior interventions, and responsivity factors.

Increase in supervision due to b-e shall not be more than 90 days unless reassessment following policy 620.XXX

E. SUPERVISED RELEASE – INITIAL RELEASE PROCEDURES

The following requirements apply upon an individual's initial release from a Minnesota Correctional Facility.

1. The primary assessment shall be completed within 60 days of release.
2. Once completed, the primary assessment shall establish the individual's supervision level under this policy. Following completion of the primary assessment, all remaining provisions of this policy apply to ongoing supervision.
3. The current primary assessment shall be the assessment utilized in the pre-hearing worksheet to determine whether or not a violation hearing is conducted, unless it has not been completed at the time of violation, then the MnSTARR score shall be used.
4. Until the primary assessment is completed, the MnSTARR score shall establish interim minimum contact standards as follows:

a) Low or Medium MnSTARR: Medium community contact standards.
b) High MnSTARR: High community contact standards.
c) Very High MnSTARR: Placement on Intensive Supervised Release (ISR).

If an individual has six months or less remaining on supervised release at the time of release, the agency may use the MnSTARR for supervision standards.

F. AGENT ASSIGNMENT AND CONTINUITY OF SUPERVISION

1. Supervision is most effective when provided in the jurisdiction of the client's primary residence, whenever possible, and in compliance with the Intrastate Transfer Policy 201.021.

2. Individuals with cases in multiple jurisdictions shall have one supervising agent. That supervising agent shall be within the agency with jurisdiction of the client's residence and with supervision authority of the highest level of offense the client is currently under supervision for, unless another agent is mutually agreed upon by all supervision agencies. All active supervision cases shall be transferred to one designated agent.

3. Agencies may establish local procedures for:

a) caseload assignment;
b) specialized caseloads;
c) team supervision;
d) coverage during staff absences;
e) secondary or support-agent responsibilities; and
f) internal workload distribution.

G. PLACEMENT AND RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT

1. Placement in residential treatment or another structured setting does not automatically constitute a reduction in assessed risk.

2. Agencies may modify contact practices during placement when appropriate based on the individual's circumstances and services being provided.

3. Following meaningful participation in or completion of residential treatment, agencies should reassess risk when required or appropriate under statewide assessment policy.

4. Upon return to the community, supervision level shall be determined based upon the applicable assessment, current dynamic risk, behavior, adjustment, needs, and other relevant information.

H. EARLY DISCHARGE

1. Agencies should consider early discharge when an individual demonstrates sustained behavioral stability, reduced assessed risk, substantial progress or completion of case plan goals, and an absence of significant supervision concerns.

2. Early discharge remains subject to applicable statute, court authority, releasing-authority requirements, and local procedures.

I. STAFF TRAINING

1. Staff responsible for assessment, case planning, supervision, and intervention must complete training required by applicable statewide training policy 610.010.

2. Agencies may provide additional training based upon local needs, programming, specialized caseloads, or agency priorities.

J. QUALITY ASSURANCE AND DOCUMENTATION

1. Agencies must maintain sufficient documentation to demonstrate compliance with statewide supervision requirements. At a minimum, agencies shall document:

a) required assessment and reassessment information;

b) assigned supervision level;
c) required supervision contacts;
d) case planning as required by statewide policy;
e) supervision-level changes and the basis for those decisions; and
f) information required by statute or statewide reporting requirements.

2. Additional quality-assurance processes, documentation standards, supervisory review, and internal audits may be established through local agency policy.

3. Statewide data reporting requirements shall be established through applicable statute, comprehensive plan requirements, or separate statewide data policy.