DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

FACT SHEET

Discipline

Introduction

The Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) uses different interventions to maintain safety, justice, and accountability—discipline and behavior—driven consequences being two of them. When reviewing discipline history, it is important to understand that adjustment to prison, behavior, accountability, and rehabilitation are dynamic. When evaluating the importance of past discipline, DOC considers length of time that has passed since issued, severity of behavior (level) that led to discipline, repetitive behavior violations of the same kind, and pattern/frequency of discipline, as many individuals may have discipline history that occurred pre-transformation or rehabilitation at the facility. The documentation pertains to Formal Discipline only, as Informal Discipline is handled at the facility-level with a shorter retention period (90 day rolling window). Discipline history begins on Page 2 of the attached report.

Discipline Penalty Types

- Major Penalties: Extended incarceration (EI) and restitution, which may only be imposed at a major hearing or through waiver of a major hearing.
- Minor Penalties: Loss of privileges, disciplinary segregation, restrictive segregation, and discipline idle status, which may be imposed at a major or minor hearing or by waiver.
- Loss of Privileges: Loss of recreation and some social activities, as well as other possible restrictions such as confinement to one's cell/bunk during non-working hours.
- Disciplinary Segregation: A specified number of days of confinement in a room/cell with fewer privileges and amenities.
- Restrictive Disciplinary Segregation: A more restrictive form of disciplinary segregation.
- Extended Incarceration: A disciplinary penalty that affects the length of time an individual is incarcerated.
- Levels of Discipline: Level 1 (lowest) to Level 5 (highest) references severity of discipline according to the grid.

Waivers and Hearings - Major and Minor

Waiver: Admission to a charged violation prior to a hearing and an agreement to the disposition and penalty offered by discipline staff. A vast majority of discipline is settled through a signed waiver.

Hearings: An informal, administrative, fact-finding examination convened for the purpose of establishing whether an individual has violated the discipline rules for which they are charged.

- Major Hearing: Conducted by an HRU (Hearing Release Unit) hearing officer and penalties are major, including restitution and extended incarceration. Lesser penalties may be imposed during a major hearing as well.
- Minor Hearing: Conducted by discipline staff at the facility. Extended incarceration and restitution may not be sought during a minor hearing.

Findings

A preponderance of the evidence is the standard of proof. Findings include guilty, not guilty and withdrawn. If discipline is listed as active, that means that the penalty has not been completed. Inactive references past discipline that has been fulfilled/completed at the time of the report.

Links to Discipline Policy & Handbook

The Discipline Policy can be accessed at the following link:
https://policy.doc.mn.gov/DOCPolicy/PolicyDoc?name=303.010.pdf

The Discipline Handbook can be accessed at the following link:
https://policy.doc.mn.gov/DOCPolicy/PolicyDoc?name=PolicyAttachments/303.010I.doc

It includes the Table of Penalties, which shows the different levels of discipline and the ranges for penalties.

Historical Discipline Records

The discipline records attached may include two formats. The Discipline History Report (Legacy) includes any discipline that was incurred prior to 1/5/2021, when the discipline records database was modified. If there is more recent discipline for the individual, those records will be reflected at the end of the attachment and will be printed sheets that are not as condensed as the Legacy Report. Redactions will be applied for sensitive security information or private/confidential data throughout the reports.