



## Chapter 2911: Jail Facilities

# Agency Panel

- Paul Schnell, Commissioner of Corrections
- Safia Kahn, Deputy Commission – Chief of Staff
- Mikael Garland, Inspector General
- Amy Lauricella, Director of Policy and Rulemaking
- Kristi Strang, Director of Inspections and Enforcement
- Tara Rathman, Rulemaking Manager

Exhibits are posted on the agency's website.

<https://mn.gov/doc/about/rulemaking/meetings.jsp>

The screenshot displays the website's navigation menu at the top, including links for About, Family & Visitors, Facilities, Community Supervision & Reentry, Victim Support, Careers, Employment, Staff & Partners, Transparency Center, and MRR. Below the menu is a breadcrumb trail: Home > About > Rulemaking > Meetings. On the left is a dark blue sidebar menu with 'About' as the main heading and sub-items: Agency, Budget, Equity, Access, and Inclusion and Americans with Disabilities (ADA), Legislative Information, MCF-Stillwater - Phased Closure, Menus and Nutrition, News, Office of Inspector General, Ombudsperson for Corrections, Pardon Board, Photos & Videos, Policies, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), Rulemaking, Meetings (highlighted with a right-pointing arrow), and Supervised Release Board. The main content area is titled 'Rulemaking Meetings' with the subtext 'This page lists upcoming rulemaking events and meetings.' Below this is a tabbed interface with '2911' and 'Hearing Exhibits' tabs. The 'Hearing Exhibits' tab is active, showing a list of exhibits: Exhibit A - Request for Comments, Exhibit B - Petition for Rulemaking, Exhibit C - Revisor's Rule Draft (3-11-26), Exhibit D - SONAR, Exhibit E - Legislative Reference Library Submission, Exhibit F - Notice of Hearing in State Register, Exhibit G - Certificate of Mailing & Accuracy of Mailing List, Exhibit H - Certificate of Additional Notice, Exhibit I - Written Comments (forthcoming), Exhibit J - Omission of Text, and Exhibit K - Other Documents (Letter to MMR & Notice to Legislators).

# Exhibits



Document  
Legal Authority



Demonstrate Legal &  
Procedural Requirements



Demonstrate Need &  
Reasonableness

# Reality Facing Minnesota Jails Today

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High rates of mental illness and substance-use disorders in jail populations

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Many individuals enter custody already in crisis

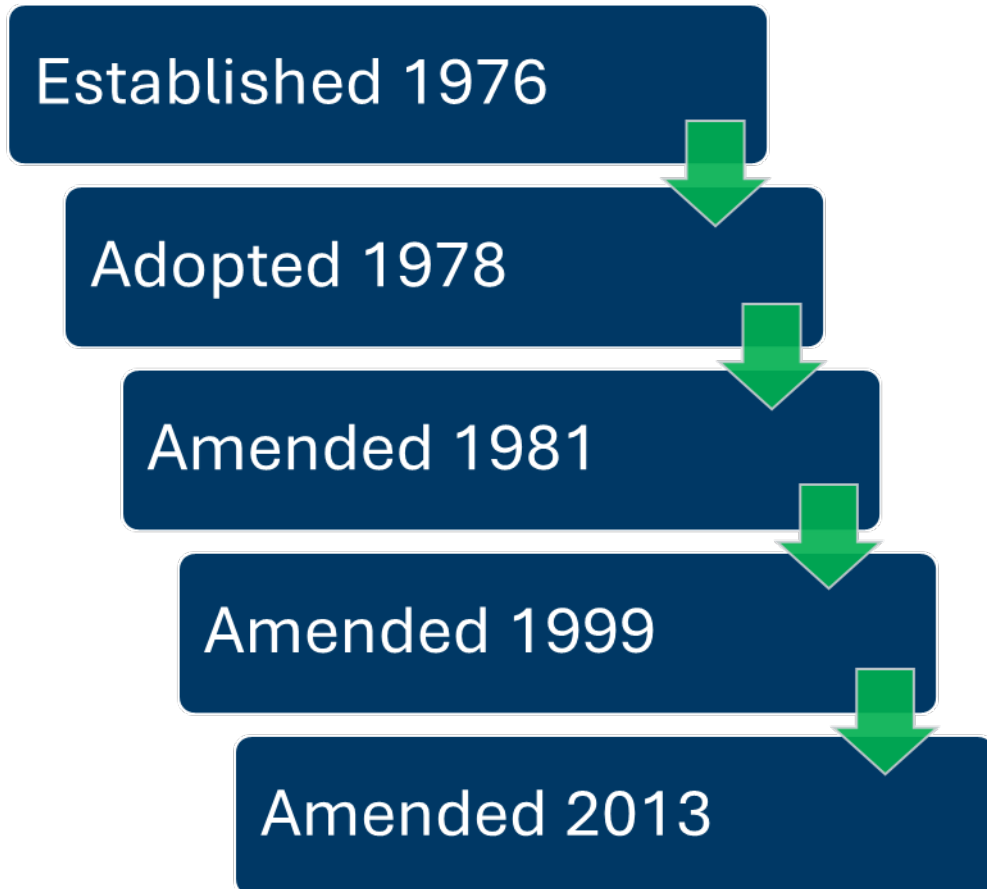
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Jails manage behavioral-health needs traditionally handled in the community

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Short stays, staffing shortages, and resource limitations complicate operations

# 2911 Rulemaking History



2021 Legislative Changes

Mandatory Reporting Requirements

DOC Sanctioning Authority

17 New Minimum Standards

# Why Modernization Is Necessary

Jail Deaths &  
Suicide  
Attempts

Opioid  
Epidemic

Suicide  
Prevention  
Practices

Medication  
Continuity

Mental Health

Well-being  
Checks

Modern  
Health  
Practices

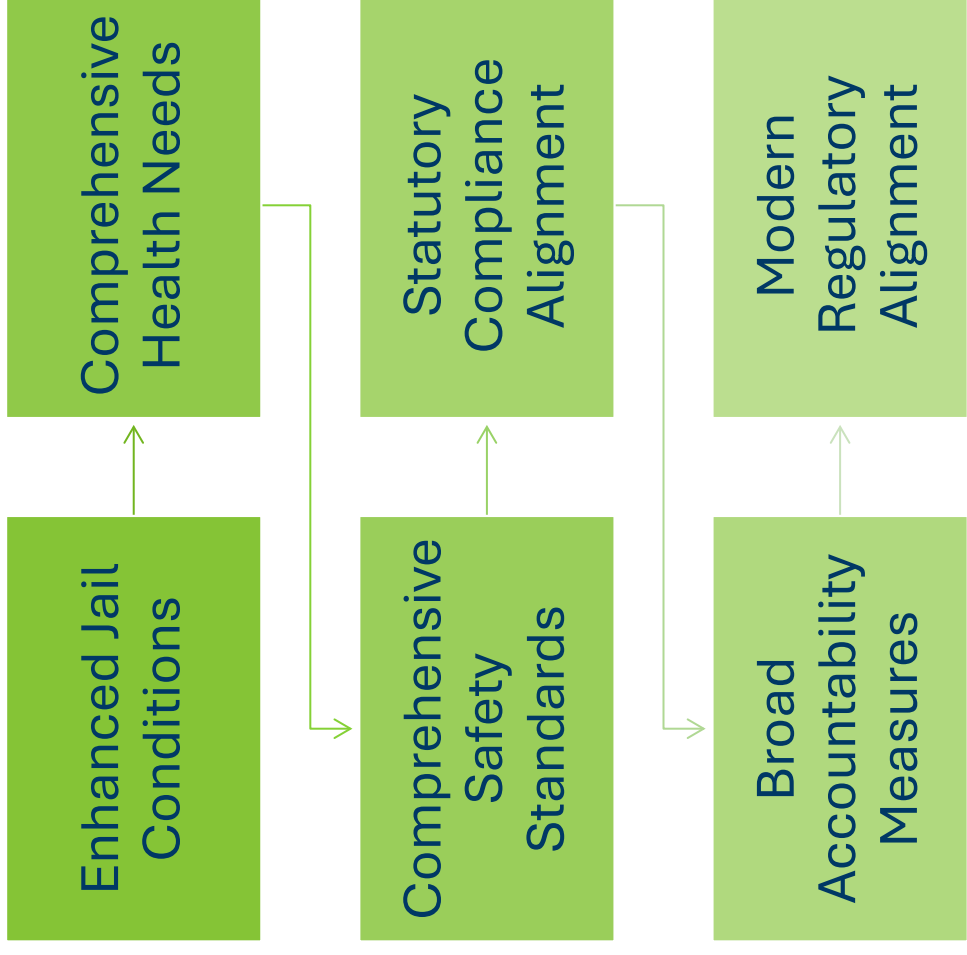
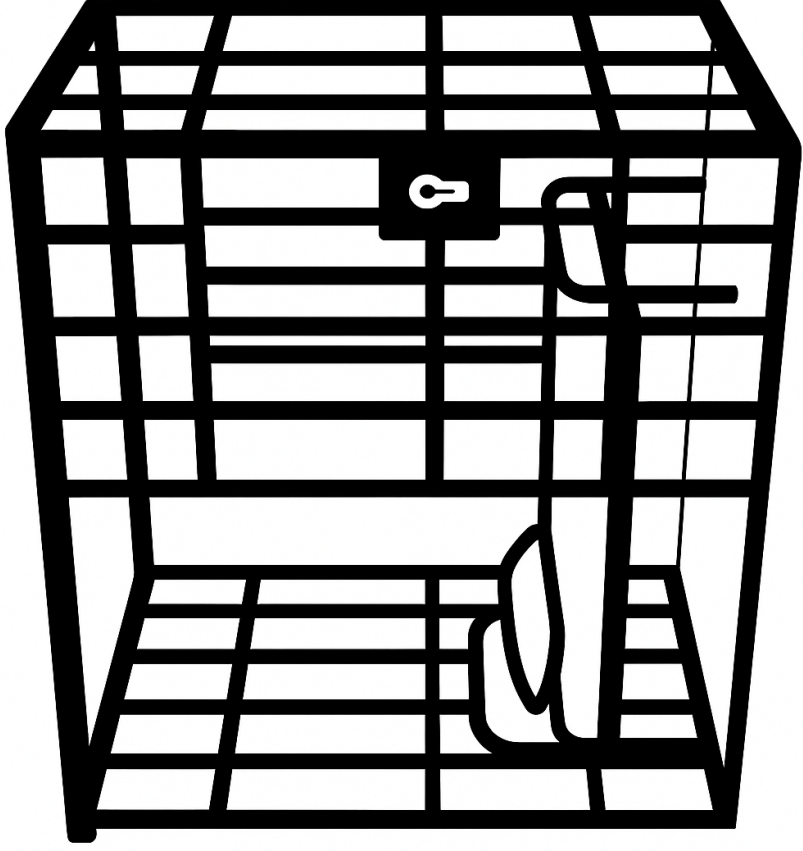
Legislative  
Changes

Withdrawal  
Management

# Commissioner Obligations: County Jails & State Prisons

- Commissioner is tasked by the legislature with overseeing two separate parts of the corrections system:
  - Inspecting and regulating county and regional jail facilities via Minnesota Rules
  - Operating the state prison system via policy
- 1976 law required commissioner to set jail standards in rule but exempted prison conditions from rulemaking
- Different oversight structures exist even though both systems face similar challenges
- Difference in populations, with jail population destabilized at admission

# Need for the Proposed Rules



# Reasonableness and Flexibility

Rules must be both needed and reasonable under Minnesota law

No one-size-fits-all jail model exists

Performance-based approach preserves local flexibility

Rejected overly burdensome statewide accreditation requirements

# Stakeholder Engagement and Public Expectations

- Department engaged with sheriffs, jail administrators, health professionals, advocates, and family members
- Process focused on both operational realities and public accountability
- Rulemaking centers on incarcerated people, staff safety, and constitutional conditions
- Public trust requires modern and enforceable minimum standards

# Recent Revisions and Operational Flexibility

- Incorporated statutory inspection standard and clarified facility support plans in rule are not licensing actions
- Department revised staffing, segregation, and reporting requirements
- Clarified language and removed impractical mandates
- Preserved flexibility for facilities with different resources and layouts
- Balanced operational practicality with statutory and constitutional obligations



Flexibility in reporting and incorporations by reference



Clarification of staffing, variances, and commissioner oversight



Modernization of segregation, mental-health screening, and well-being check practices



Alignment of release procedures and statutory discharge-planning requirements



Streamlining of documentation, inspection, and review requirements

# Closing

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Jail staff deserve clear and modern standards

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Incarcerated people deserve safe and constitutional conditions

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Counties deserve practical and flexible guidance

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Department believes revisions are needed, reasonable, and necessary

# Thank You!

**Minnesota Department of Corrections Rulemaking**

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