

Inspection & Enforcement

Construction Review

The unit acts as a clearinghouse for all local correctional facility construction. Technical assistance is provided to facility operators and their architects during the planning, construction, and occupancy phases to make aware of construction requirements, operational procedures, and staffing requirements. The unit reviews and grants approval of construction plans and remodeling of existing facilities.

Federal Juvenile Compliance Monitoring

The unit confirms and reports potential juvenile hold violations in DOC secure adult jail and municipal facilities to the Department of Public Safety-Office of Juvenile Justice Division. Violations at facilities holding juveniles under the age of 14 are also tracked and addressed with facility administrators.

Juvenile Licensing

All DOC-licensed juvenile facilities are inspected under The Children's Residential Facility Rule 2960, with sections of the licensing rules based on the services offered at each facility. The Inspection Unit has two inspectors who conduct inspections of juvenile facilities. Department staff inspect facilities that are licensed by the DOC. Some facilities have separate licenses or certificates from the DOC and the Department of Human Services (DHS), where both DOC and DHS inspect those facilities for the components that they license or certify. In addition, those inspectors with juvenile facility caseloads also conduct inspections of out-of-state facilities/programs that hold Minnesota juveniles in placement (MN Statute 260B.198). All complaints of abuse or maltreatment are investigated by DHS Child Protection Unit. All Foster Care Facilities are investigated by local child protective services or law enforcement in the county where the facility is located.

Mental Health Screening Monitoring

As required by state statute, a mental health screening form was developed for screening and identifying inmates who may have mental health issues. Facility staff track and report the number of inmates identified as needing further review.

Municipal Facilities

The unit coordinates the inspection of local municipal jail facilities for which the respective county sheriffs, local health and fire officials are responsible for inspections.

Security Audits

The unit conducts security audits for adult prisons, adult boot camps, and a state operated juvenile correctional facility.

Sex Offender Treatment Certification

Staff certify all residential correctional programs providing sex offender treatment under Rule Chapters 2955 (juvenile) and 2965 (adult).

Technical Assistance

The unit provides technical assistance to local units of government by acting as a liaison to state planning and DOC units.

Training

The unit provides medical, Cross-Gender Supervision, Avoiding Setups and Cell Extraction training for 2911 facilities, Restrictive Procedures, Disciplinary Room Time and The Ugliness of Grooming training for Chapter 2960 facilities and Avoiding Setup training for Chapter 2920 facilities.