



Facility Inspection Report Issued By The Minnesota Department of Corrections Pursuant to MN Statute 241.021, Subdivision 1

Inspection and Enforcement Unit, 1450 Energy Park Drive, Suite 200, St.Paul MN 55108
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INSPECTION DETAILS FOR:

Martin County Jail

Address: 201 Lake Avenue, Fairmont, MN 56031

MN Governing Rule: 2911 Local Adult Detention Facilities

Inspection Type: Annual **Inspected By:** Jake Nelson – Senior Detention Facility Inspector **Inspected on:** 03/11/2025

Inspection Method: Facility walk-through, staff and inmate interviews, staff and inmate file reviews, facility documentation review and video footage review.

Officials Present During Inspection: Jail Administrator Tanya Rathman

Officials Present for Exit Interview: Jail Administrator Tanya Rathman

Issued Inspection Report to: Jail Administrator Tanya Rathman; Sheriff Jeff Markquart; County Coordinator Scott Higgins; Regional Manager Dayna Burmeister

RULE COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

Rule Chapter	Requirement Type	Total Applicable	Total Compliance	Total Non Compliance	Total Compliance With Recommendations	Compliance Rating	Substantial Compliance Result/Criteria
2911	Mandatory	126	123	1	2	99.21%	Compliance rating of 100%
2911	Essential	102	101	0	1	100.00%	Compliance rating of 90%

TERMS OF OPERATION

Authority to Operate: approval **Begins On:** 05/01/2025 **Ends On:** 04/30/2026 **Facility Type:** Jail
Placed on Biennial Status: No **Biennial Status Annual Compliance Form Due On:**
Delinquent Juvenile Hold Approval: 6 hrs **Certificate Holder:** Martin County Sheriff's Office
Special Conditions:

Approved Capacity Details **Operational Capacity is calculated as a percent of Approved Capacity beds.*

Bed Type	Gender	Approved Capacity	Effective Date	%Operating Capacity	Operational Capacity	Bed Details	Conditions
Secure	Coed	32	1/23/2002	80	25.60	None	

RULE COMPLIANCE DETAILS

Chapter 2911 - Mandatory Rules Not In Compliance**Total: 1**

1. 2911.6500 STORAGE. Subpart 2. Refrigeration.

Medication requiring refrigeration shall be refrigerated and secured and the temperature checked daily. There must be separate refrigeration for medications only.

Inspection Findings:

Documentation reviewed for all of 2025 showed two daily temperature checks missing in March of 2025.

Corrective Actions:

The facility shall review and make any needed updates to the procedure, to ensure temperature checks are logged daily for the medication refrigerator. Send updated procedure to the DOC by May 1, 2025.

Response Needed By: 05/01/2025**Chapter 2911 - Mandatory Rules In Compliance With Recommendations****Total: 2**

1. 2911.0300 INTENDED USE AND NONCONFORMANCE WITH RULES Subpart 2. Nonconformance, unsafe, unsanitary, or illegal conditions.

When conditions do not substantially conform or where specific conditions endanger the health, welfare, or safety of inmates or staff, the facility's use is restricted pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 241.021, subdivision 1, or legal proceedings to condemn the facility will be initiated pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 641.26 or 642.10.

Inspection Findings:

See Physical Plant Concerns in the inspection comments.

Corrective Actions:

It is strongly recommended that the facility persist in addressing the needs of the physical plant to prevent further deterioration, which could potentially lead to health and safety concerns.

Response Needed By:

2. 2911.6600 DELIVERY. Subpart 16. Keep-on-person medications.

There shall be a policy and procedure for keep-on-person medications that provides for: A. medications identified and approved by the health authority as appropriate for self-administration and storage in an inmate's cell; B. procedures for an inmate's overdose of the medication; C. consequences if too much medication is found in the inmate's possession; D. how the distribution of medications under this subpart is going to be documented; and E. nonprescription medications, if any, that are available to inmates through vending machines or commissary. Keep-on-person medications shall be documented for each inmate.

Inspection Findings:

The facility has a policy on the use of keep-on-person medications. However, there was no procedure for how staff would monitor for overdoses, handle consequences, or have accurate accounting for these medications.

Corrective Actions:

This procedure has been updated, and no further action is required at this time.

Response Needed By: 05/01/2025**Chapter 2911 - Essential Rules In Compliance With Recommendations****Total: 1**

1. 2911.3500 VOLUNTEERS.

When volunteers are used in facility programs, a written policy and procedure shall provide that a staff member is responsible for coordinating the volunteer service program. The policy includes the following elements: A. lines of authority, responsibility, and accountability for the volunteer services; B. a procedure for the screening and selection of volunteers; C. an orientation training program appropriate to the nature of the assignment; D. a requirement that volunteers agree in writing to abide by all facility rules and policies, with emphasis on security and confidentiality of information; and E. a statement that the administrator may discontinue a volunteer activity at any time by written notice.

Inspection Findings:

The volunteer handbook and orientation procedures were missing Item E.

Corrective Actions:

This was corrected on-site. No further action is required at this time.

Response Needed By:

INSPECTION COMMENTS

It has been previously recommended in inspection reports that the Martin County Jail be reclassified to a Class I or Class II facility, due to identified deficiencies such as poor sightlines, limited visibility in living areas, and insufficient programming and recreational opportunities.

Since then, the facility has made substantial improvements to address these issues and enhance its operations, despite the challenges posed by an aging physical plant. The administration has introduced a variety of workout equipment and leisure activities to the recreation area and has established a comprehensive program schedule offering diverse opportunities for the inmate population. Additionally, emergency call buttons have been installed in all living areas, and numerous security cameras have been added to eliminate blind spots and improve monitoring capabilities when officers are not present in these spaces.

While the physical plant continues to show signs of age, the administration has proactively addressed this by replacing outdated equipment and fixtures to mitigate further deterioration. The facility is well-maintained and currently does not present any immediate health or safety concerns related to the physical infrastructure.

However, despite its overall maintenance, the facility's physical layout continues to present operational challenges. Narrow corridors, potential ligature points created by cell bars, and a medical office that lacks sufficient space for inmate care—often necessitating medical procedures be conducted within inmates' cells—pose significant operational difficulties for staff.

Given the significant improvements made by Martin County to address the concerns raised in prior inspections, and after consultation with Inspection Supervisor and the DOC construction Inspector, the recommendation to reclassify the facility to a Class I or Class II will be deferred. However, should the physical plant experience further deterioration or health and safety issues that cannot be promptly resolved, the reclassification process will be revisited.

It is recommended that Martin County continue to explore long-term solutions for the future of the jail, whether through a major renovation or the construction of a new facility.

Due to continued physical plant concerns, the facility shall remain on an annual inspection status for continued monitoring.

JJDPA Compliance

Compliance Report for the Monitoring Facilities Pursuant to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002.

On March 11, 2025, a Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act audit was conducted for Martin County. Martin County has juvenile hold ability and is limited to 6 hours before and 6 hours after a delinquent juvenile is brought to court.

There are three core requirements that are looked at during our facility review. Those core requirements are Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO), Removal of Juveniles for Adult Jail and Adult Lockups (Jail Removal), and Sight and Sound separation. Martin County does not process juveniles through the Statewide Supervision System, all juvenile records are kept on a juvenile record list. The Martin County Jail processed 3 juveniles during the allowed reportable time. All data entries on the log were reviewed.

The findings are as follows:

Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO): No violations were determined for facility holding status offenders in the jail.

Jail Removal: No violations identified.

Sight and Sound Separation: The conference room location allows for proper sight and sound separation from adults. The route taken to court holding is questionable due to the public visibility. The only route available is through the open lobby and outside to the courthouse, no other alternative routes are available.

The facility does not participate in any "Scared Straight" programs for any youth that are under public authority.

Court Holding: Martin County does not have secure holding in the courthouse.

Based on the documentation reviewed, the Martin County Jail had no violations of the JJDP Act.

Report completed By: Jake Nelson – Senior Detention Facility Inspector

Signature: _____

