



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
Telephone: 651-361-7146 Fax: 651-642-0314 Email: ie-support.doc@state.mn.us

INSPECTION DETAILS FOR:

Mower County Jail

Address: 201 Second Avenue NE, SUITE 4, Austin, MN 55912

MN Governing Rule: 2911 Local Adult Detention Facilities

Inspection Type: Biennial **Inspected By:** Gretta Holder – Detention Facility Inspector **Inspected on:** 01/08/2026

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

Officials Present During Inspection: Jail Administrator James Brown

Officials Present for Exit Interview: Jail Administrator James Brown

Issued Inspection Report to: Jail Administrator James Brown; Sheriff Steve Sandvik

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	3	0	97.62%	Compliance rating of 100%
2911	Essential	100	100	0	0	100.00%	Compliance rating of 90%

TERMS OF OPERATION

Authority to Operate: approval **Begins On:** 02/01/2026 **Ends On:** 01/31/2028 **Facility Type:** Jail
Placed on Biennial Status: Yes **Biennial Status Annual Compliance Form Due On:** 01/31/2027
Delinquent Juvenile Hold Approval: 24 hrs exclusive of weekends and holidays **Certificate Holder:** Mower County Sheriff's Office
201 First Street NE, Ste #3
Austin, MN 55912

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
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RULE COMPLIANCE DETAILS

Chapter 2911 - Mandatory Rules Not In Compliance

Total: 3

1. 2911.2525 ADMISSIONS. Subpart 1. Policies and procedures.

A facility shall have written policies and procedures for processing new inmates to the facility to include, at a minimum, the following: A. obtaining and documenting available emergency medical information within two hours of admission; B. verification of court commitment papers or other legal documentation of detention. Verification shall include checking the date of admission, duration of confinement, and specific charges; C. a search of the inmate and the inmate's possessions; D. inventory and storage of the inmate's personal property; E. initial medical screening to include an assessment of the inmate's health status, including any medical or mental health needs; F. telephone calls made by the inmate during the booking and admission process and prior to assignment to other housing areas; G. shower and hair cleansing; H. issue of bedding, clothing, and personal hygiene items according to the rule requirements applicable to the anticipated length of stay of the inmate; I. photographing and fingerprinting including notation of identifying marks or unusual characteristics such as birthmarks or tattoos; J. interviewing to obtain the following identifying data: (1) name and aliases of person; (2) current address, or last known address; (3) health insurance information; (4) gender; (5) age; (6) date of birth; (7) place of birth; (8) race; (9) present or last place of employment; (10) emergency contact including name, relation, address, and telephone number; and (11) additional information concerning special custody requirements or special needs; K. initial classification of the inmate and assignment to a housing unit; L. an assigned booking number; and M. Social Security number, driver's license number, or state identification number, if available.

Inspection Findings:

Documentation review of 4 inmates booking files showed that one inmate's mental health screening was not completed in its entirety. The answers to the mental health questions should have resulted in a mental health referral. However, no referral was documented on the mental health screen form.

Corrective Actions:

All staff must be retrained on the proper procedure for completing the mental health screenings. Specifically, the scoring requirements for when inmates need to be referred for mental health services.

Send documentation of the completed training to the Department of Corrections (DOC) by the response date.

Response Needed By: 02/27/2026

2. 2911.5000 POST ORDERS; FORMAL INMATE COUNT; WELL-BEING CHECKS. Subpart 5. Well-being.

A facility shall have a system providing for well-being checks of inmates. A written policy and procedure shall provide that all inmates are personally observed by a custody staff person at least once every 30 minutes. Thirty-minute checks should be staggered. If a well-being check does not occur due to an emergency, it must be documented in the jail log and have supervisory review and approval. More frequent observation is required for those inmates of a special need classification who may be harmful to themselves. Examples of inmates of a special need classification include those classified as potentially suicidal, or as mentally ill, or those experiencing withdrawal from drugs or alcohol.

Inspection Findings:

A video review of well-being checks from four separate days and times identified one check on 11/19/2025 at 10:49am where staff did not look into the cells. On the same day, a well-being check was missed between 11:11am and 12:12pm. On 12/9/2025 there was a 39-minute gap between 12:42pm-1:21pm where a well-being check was not conducted and again a 36-minute gap between 1:21pm and 1:57pm.

Corrective Actions:

The facility must ensure that all well-being checks are conducted and documented within the required 30-minute intervals. Staff should receive refresher training on this requirement. Documentation confirming completion of the refresher training must be recorded and submitted for review.

Response Needed By: 02/27/2026

3. 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:

When reviewing the medical refrigerator temperature logs for 2025, twenty-five days were missing. Some daily temperature logs also appeared to have been pre-filled as there are checks for more days than are in certain months.

Corrective Actions:

The facility shall develop a plan to ensure that temperatures are taken and recorded daily. The temperature log for January and February must be sent to the DOC by 2/27/2026.

Response Needed By: 02/27/2026

INSPECTION COMMENTS

Mower County will remain on biennial inspections.

JJDPA Compliance

On January 7, 2026, a Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act audit was conducted. The Mower County Jail has received a "Rural Exception" to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Act (JJDP). This allows for the facility to hold a delinquent juvenile up to 24 hours, excluding weekends and holidays. The three core requirements that are looked at during a facility review are Deinstitutionalization of status Offenders (DSO), Removal of Juveniles for Adult Jails and Lock-Ups, and Sight and Sound Separation.

According to DOC Portal, the Mower County Jail processed zero (0) juveniles between January 8, 2025 and January 7, 2026.

There were no violations of the JJDP Act during this inspection. The jail does not participate in any scared straight programs.

Report completed By: Gretta Holder – Detention Facility Inspector

Signature:

Gretta Holder