



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:

Pennington County Jail

Address: 102 W First Street, PO BOX 484, Thief River Falls, MN 56701

MN Governing Rule: 2911 Local Adult Detention Facilities

Inspection Type: Biennial **Inspected By:** Lauren Bizzotto – Detention Facility Inspector **Inspected on:** 04/30/2025

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 Dave Casanova

Officials Present for Exit Interview: Jail Administrator Dave Casanova; Sheriff Seth Vettleson

Issued Inspection Report to: Jail Administrator Dave Casanova; Sheriff Seth Vettleson

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	122	2	2	98.41%	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:** 06/01/2025 **Ends On:** 05/31/2027 **Facility Type:** Jail
Placed on Biennial Status: Yes **Biennial Status Annual Compliance Form Due On:** 05/31/2026
Delinquent Juvenile Hold Approval: 24 hrs exclusive of weekends and holidays **Certificate Holder:** Pennington 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	92	7/12/2018	90	82.80	None.	

RULE COMPLIANCE DETAILS

Chapter 2911 - Mandatory Rules Not In Compliance**Total: 2****1. 2911.2525 ADMISSIONS. Subpart 4. Inmate personal property.**

A facility shall have a written policy and procedure that: A. provides for the itemized inventory and secure storage of all personal property of a newly admitted inmate, including money and other valuables; B. specifies any personal property an inmate may retain in the inmate's possession; and C. provides that the inmate shall sign a receipt for all property held until release.

Inspection Findings:

Three inmate files were reviewed, 2 files did not have property sheets that were signed by the inmate.

Corrective Actions:

Retrain staff on the admissions policy and procedure for property held, after completion of that training send documentation to the Department of Corrections.

Response Needed By: 06/19/2025**2. 2911.5800 AVAILABILITY OF MEDICAL AND DENTAL RESOURCES. Subpart 6. Medical screening.**

A facility shall have a written policy and procedure that requires medical screening is performed and recorded by trained staff on all inmates on admission to the facility. The findings are to be recorded in a manner approved by the health authority. The screening process shall include procedures relating to: A. Inquiry into: (1) current illness and health problems, including dental emergencies, and other infectious diseases; (2) medication taken and special health requirements; (3) use of alcohol and other drugs that include types of drugs used, mode of use, amounts used, frequency used, date or time of last use, and history of problems that may have occurred after ceasing use, for example, convulsions; (4) past and present treatment or hospitalization for mental illness or attempted suicide; (5) other health problems designated by the health authority; and (6) signs and symptoms of active tuberculosis to include weight loss, night sweats, persistent cough lasting three weeks or longer, coughing up blood, low grade fever, fatigue, chest pain, prior history of active tuberculosis disease, and results of previous tuberculin skin or blood testing. B. Observations of: (1) behavior that includes state of consciousness, mental status, appearance, conduct, tremor, and sweating; and (2) body deformities, trauma markings, body piercings, bruises, lesions, and jaundice. C. Disposition to: (1) general population; (2) general population and referral to appropriate health care service; (3) referral to appropriate health care service on an emergency basis; and (4) other.

Inspection Findings:

Review of the medical screening revealed it was missing part of element A.3, history of problems that may have occurred after ceasing use, and element B.2, observation of body deformities, trauma markings, body piercings, bruises, lesions, and jaundice.

Corrective Actions:

Both items have been corrected by the facility after the inspection. No further action is required at this time.

Response Needed By: 06/19/2025**Chapter 2911 - Mandatory Rules In Compliance With Recommendations****Total: 2****1. 2911.5300 SEARCHES, SHAKEDOWNS, AND CONTRABAND CONTROL. Subpart 4. Daily inspections.**

A facility shall be inspected at least daily for contraband, evidence of breaches in security, and inoperable security equipment, and shall document the inspection.

Inspection Findings:

The method of documenting the daily inspections varied, data had to be pulled from three areas. Once data was compiled, it appeared that the facility complied with documenting the daily inspections.

Corrective Actions:

To maintain consistency, it is recommended that the facility document all data for the daily inspections in one area.

Response Needed By:

2. 2911.5550 LOCKS AND KEYS. Subpart 3. Regular testing.

Locks to security doors or gates shall be tested for proper function at least weekly to ensure proper operation.

Inspection Findings:

Three months of weekly inspections were reviewed, no weekly inspections were missed. However, the weekly inspection on April 20, 2025, missed one area.

Corrective Actions:

It is recommended that the facility set up a review process for the weekly inspections to ensure that all areas are completed weekly.

Response Needed By:

Chapter 2911 - Essential Rules In Compliance With Recommendations**Total: 1**

1. 2911.7300 FIRE INSPECTION. Subpart 4. Weekly inspection.

There shall be an applicable fire code and safety inspection of the facility at least weekly by a designated staff member.

Inspection Findings:

Three months of weekly inspections were reviewed, no weekly inspections were missed. However, the weekly inspection on April 20, 2025, missed one area.

Corrective Actions:

It is recommended that the facility set up a review process for the weekly inspections to ensure that all areas are completed weekly.

Response Needed By:

INSPECTION COMMENTS

The Pennington County Jail will remain on a biennial inspection schedule.

JJDPA Compliance

On April 30, 2025 a Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act audit was conducted. The Pennington County Jail has received a "Rural Exception" to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP). This allows the facility to hold a delinquent juvenile up to 24 hours, excluding weekends and holiday. 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.

According to the DOC Portal System and facility records, the Pennington County Jail held or processed zero (0) juveniles during the federal fiscal year from October 1st, 2024.

Report completed By: Lauren Bizzotto – Detention Facility Inspector

Signature:

