

How We Decide Where People Go During the MCF-Stillwater Closure

A Guide to the Relocation Rubric

The Law Requires a Fair and Thoughtful Process

The Minnesota Legislature passed a law saying the Department of Corrections (DOC) must be careful and fair when closing a prison. That includes:

- Evaluating how the closure will affect incarcerated people
- Keeping programs, medical care, family visits, and reentry services as steady as possible
- Making sure people still have access to the things they need to succeed

What Is a Rubric and Why Are We Using One?

A rubric is a tool that helps the DOC make decisions in a clear, fair, and organized way.

Because so many people will be moving out of Stillwater at once, we need a process that helps us look at everyone's needs while also making sure we use space across all prisons in the best way possible.

The rubric lists the most important things to consider when deciding where someone should go. It helps ensure:

- People with high needs are prioritized
- Placement decisions are consistent
- We follow the law
- Everyone knows that the process is fair and thoughtful

What the Rubric Looks At — In Order

Here's how the rubric works. Staff will go through these four steps, in this order:

1. Special Program Needs

People who already qualify for special programs will be placed first. This includes:

- Mental health treatment and housing
- Sex offense or drug treatment
- Higher education/college programs
- Challenge Incarceration Program
- Minimum custody placements for work programs

2. Medical and Mental Health Care Needs

Next, staff will look at health care needs. Some people may require certain medical beds or need to be closer to a specific clinic for care.

3. Other Placement Factors

For the rest of the population, we consider:

- Custody level and classification score
- Safety and security concerns
- Programming still needed
- Time left on sentence and upcoming release dates
- Compatibility with others in housing units

4. Short-Term Temporary Housing

People may need to go into a temporary segregation bed while they wait for the right bed to open.

- This is not discipline
- It is only used if there's no other safe option
- The goal is to keep this under 30 days whenever possible

Bottom Line

We are not moving people randomly. We are following the law and using a detailed rubric to guide every decision. We know this is a stressful time, and we want you to trust that there is a clear process in place.