

# MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

### **Possible Amendments to Rules Relating to Residential Treatment Programs for Adult and Juvenile Sex Offenders; Minnesota Rules, Chapters 2955 and 2965; Revisor's ID Number R-4447**

**Subject of Rules.** The Minnesota Department of Corrections (department) requests comments on the department's possible amendments to its rules on residential treatment programs for adult and juvenile sex offenders. The department's rule amendments will incorporate updated researched-based practices to help program clients reduce their likelihood of reoffending. Updated requirements will help better protect the safety of Minnesotans when clients are reintegrated into the community.

The department also plans to streamline its regulatory requirements by combining both chapters on adult and juvenile clients into one cohesive chapter applicable to all regulated programs. One chapter will alleviate the regulatory burden of having to read two rule chapters, and department staff and other affected parties will benefit from one cohesive rule chapter. Other changes include:

- establishing well-defined, consistent standards to promote the most effective treatment for clients;
- updating definitions and ensuring that they are consistently used; and
- getting rid of jargon and legalese and conforming to plain-language standards for more-effective regulatory compliance.

**Persons Affected.** The rule amendments likely affect:

- treatment programs in state and local correctional facilities;
- state-operated treatment programs not operated in state or local correctional facilities, but excluding the Minnesota Sex Offender Program under Minnesota Rules, parts 9515.3000 to 9515.3110;
- program employees, adult and juvenile clients, and people providing services to treatment programs;
- families or guardians of juveniles and adults receiving treatment services;
- persons and entities that pay for or reimburse for program services; and
- persons involved in the justice, mental health, and social-service systems who have contact with clients in need of treatment.

**Statutory Authority.** The department has the statutory authority to amend and adopt rules on residential treatment programs under Minnesota Statutes, section 241.67, subdivision 2, paragraph (a).

**Public Comment.** Interested individuals or groups may email or mail comments or information on the possible rules until the department publishes a notice of intent to adopt the rules. The department will not publish a notice of intent to adopt the rules until more than 60 days have elapsed from this notice's publication date.

**Advisory Committee.** The department plans to form an informal advisory committee to help the department on its possible amendments. Please contact Alan Listiak at the Minnesota Department of Corrections, [alan.listiak@state.mn.us](mailto:alan.listiak@state.mn.us) or 651-361-7148 if you want to join the advisory committee.

**Rules Drafts.** The department has not yet drafted the possible rules but will post rule drafts on its [website \(https://mn.gov/doc/staff-partners/doing-business-doc/rulemaking/\)](https://mn.gov/doc/staff-partners/doing-business-doc/rulemaking/) as drafts become available.

**Agency Contact Person.** Written comments, questions, requests to receive rule drafts, and requests for more information on the possible rules should be directed to Ian Lewenstein, [ian.lewenstein@state.mn.us](mailto:ian.lewenstein@state.mn.us), 651-539-1414, or the Minnesota Department of Corrections, 1450 Energy Park Drive, St. Paul, MN 55108.

**Alternative Format.** Upon request, this information can be made available in an alternative format such as large print, braille, or audio. To make a request, please contact Ian Lewenstein.

**NOTE:** Comments received in response to this notice will not necessarily be included in the formal rulemaking record submitted to the administrative law judge. The department is required to submit to the judge only those written comments received in response to the rules after they are proposed in a notice of intent to adopt the rules published in the *State Register*; if you submit comments before the notice is published and you want to ensure that the judge reviews the comments, you should resubmit the comments after the rules are formally proposed.

Dated: August 17, 2021

Paul Schnell, Commissioner  
Minnesota Department of Corrections