



Chapter 2911: Jail Facilities

Agency Panel

- Paul Schnell, Commissioner of Corrections
- Safia Kahn, Deputy Commission – Chief of Staff
- Mikael Garland, Inspector General
- Amy Lauricella, Director of Policy and Rulemaking
- Kristi Strang, Director of Inspections and Enforcement
- Tara Rathman, Rulemaking Manager

Exhibits are posted on the agency's website.

<https://mn.gov/doc/about/rulemaking/meetings.jsp>

The screenshot displays the website's navigation menu at the top, including links for About, Family & Visitors, Facilities, Community Supervision & Reentry, Victim Support, Careers, Employment, Staff & Partners, Transparency Center, and MRR. Below the menu is a breadcrumb trail: Home > About > Rulemaking > Meetings. On the left is a dark sidebar menu with 'About' as the main heading and sub-items: Agency, Budget, Equity, Access, and Inclusion and Americans with Disabilities (ADA), Legislative Information, MCF-Stillwater - Phased Closure, Menus and Nutrition, News, Office of Inspector General, Ombudsperson for Corrections, Pardon Board, Photos & Videos, Policies, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), Rulemaking, Meetings (highlighted with a right-pointing arrow), and Supervised Release Board. The main content area is titled 'Rulemaking Meetings' with the subtext 'This page lists upcoming rulemaking events and meetings.' Below this is a tabbed interface with '2911' and 'Hearing Exhibits' tabs. The 'Hearing Exhibits' tab is active and contains a list of links: Exhibit A - Request for Comments, Exhibit B - Petition for Rulemaking, Exhibit C - Revisor's Rule Draft (3-11-26), Exhibit D - SONAR, Exhibit E - Legislative Reference Library Submission, Exhibit F - Notice of Hearing in State Register, Exhibit G - Certificate of Mailing & Accuracy of Mailing List, Exhibit H - Certificate of Additional Notice, Exhibit I - Written Comments (forthcoming), Exhibit J - Omission of Text, and Exhibit K - Other Documents (Letter to MMR & Notice to Legislators).

Exhibits



Document
Legal Authority



Demonstrate Legal &
Procedural Requirements



Demonstrate Need &
Reasonableness

Reality Facing Minnesota Jails Today

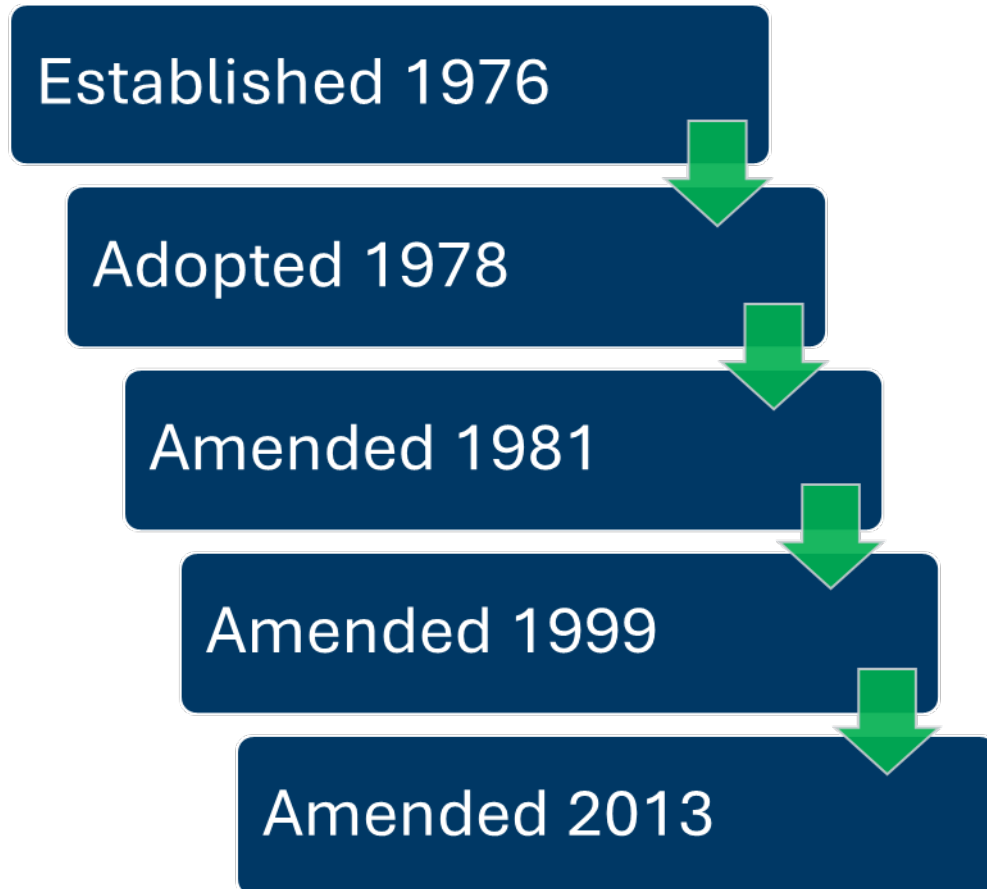
High rates of mental illness and substance-use disorders in jail populations

Many individuals enter custody already in crisis

Jails manage behavioral-health needs traditionally handled in the community

Short stays, staffing shortages, and resource limitations complicate operations

2911 Rulemaking History



2021 Legislative Changes

Mandatory Reporting Requirements

DOC Sanctioning Authority

17 New Minimum Standards

Why Modernization Is Necessary

Jail Deaths &
Suicide
Attempts

Opioid
Epidemic

Suicide
Prevention
Practices

Medication
Continuity

Mental Health

Well-being
Checks

Modern
Health
Practices

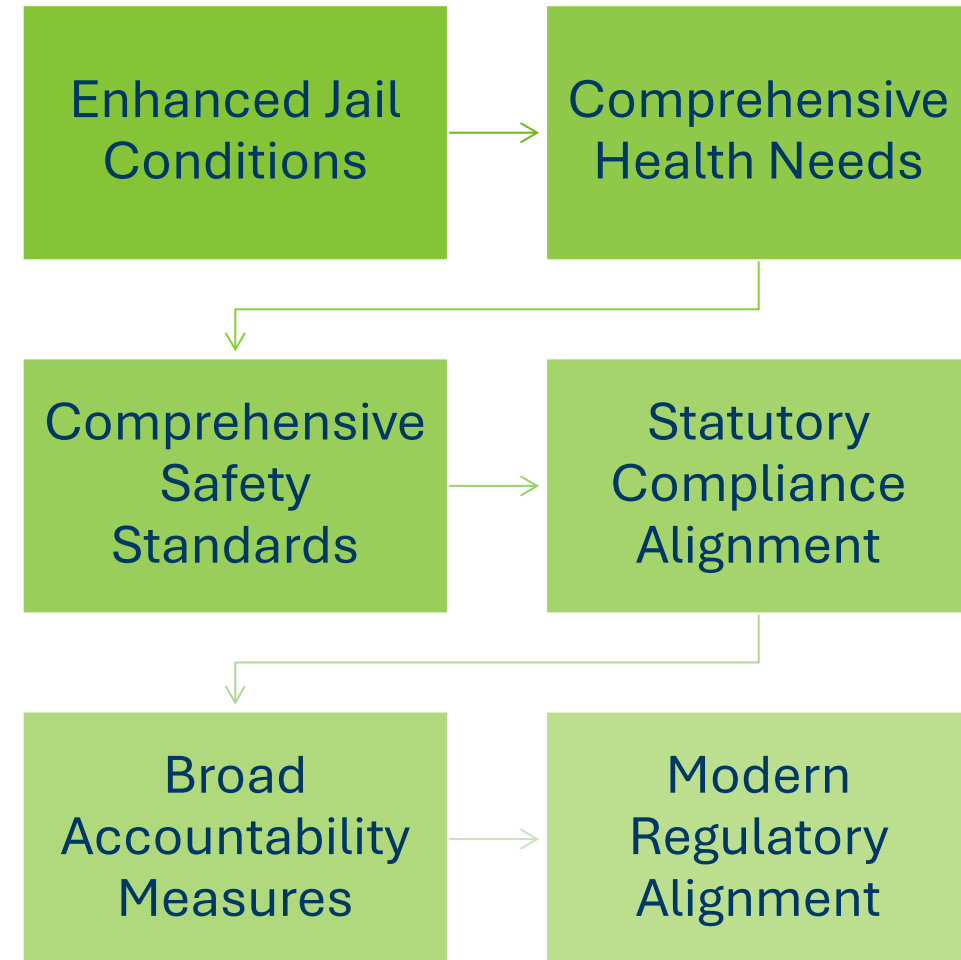
Legislative
Changes

Withdrawal
Management

Commissioner Obligations: County Jails & State Prisons

- Commissioner is tasked by the legislature with overseeing two separate parts of the corrections system:
 - Inspecting and regulating county and regional jail facilities via Minnesota Rules
 - Operating the state prison system via policy
- 1976 law required commissioner to set jail standards in rule but exempted prison conditions from rulemaking
- Different oversight structures exist even though both systems face similar challenges
- Difference in populations, with jail population destabilized at admission

Need for the Proposed Rules



Reasonableness and Flexibility

Rules must be both needed and reasonable under Minnesota law

No one-size-fits-all jail model exists

Performance-based approach preserves local flexibility

Rejected overly burdensome statewide accreditation requirements

Stakeholder Engagement and Public Expectations

- Department engaged with sheriffs, jail administrators, health professionals, advocates, and family members
- Process focused on both operational realities and public accountability
- Rulemaking centers on incarcerated people, staff safety, and constitutional conditions
- Public trust requires modern and enforceable minimum standards

Recent Revisions and Operational Flexibility

- Incorporated statutory inspection standard and clarified facility support plans in rule are not licensing actions
- Department revised staffing, segregation, and reporting requirements
- Clarified language and removed impractical mandates
- Preserved flexibility for facilities with different resources and layouts
- Balanced operational practicality with statutory and constitutional obligations



Flexibility in reporting and incorporations by reference



Clarification of staffing, variances, and commissioner oversight



Modernization of segregation, mental-health screening, and well-being check practices



Alignment of release procedures and statutory discharge-planning requirements



Streamlining of documentation, inspection, and review requirements

Closing

Jail staff deserve clear and modern standards

Incarcerated people deserve safe and constitutional conditions

Counties deserve practical and flexible guidance

Department believes revisions are needed, reasonable, and necessary

Thank You!

Minnesota Department of Corrections Rulemaking

docrulemaking.DOC@state.mn.us