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: **Stearns County Jail**

Address: 807 Courthouse Square, PO BOX 217, St. Cloud, MN 56302

MN Governing Rule: 2911 Local Adult Detention Facilities

Inspection Type: Biennial **Inspected By:** Jen Pfeifer – Senior Detention Facility Inspector **Inspected on:** 04/30/2026

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

Officials Present During Inspection:

Officials Present for Exit Interview:

Issued Inspection Report to:

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	124	2	0	98.41%	Compliance rating of 100%
2911	Essential	100	99	1	0	99.00%	Compliance rating of 90%

TERMS OF OPERATION

Authority to Operate: **Begins On:** 06/01/2026 **Ends On:** 05/31/2028 **Facility Type:** Jail

Placed on Biennial Status: Yes **Biennial Status Annual Compliance Form Due On:** 05/31/2027

Delinquent Juvenile Hold Approval: 6 hrs **Certificate Holder:** Stearns 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	156	5/6/2026	90	140.40	None.	

RULE COMPLIANCE DETAILS

Chapter 2911 - Mandatory Rules Not In Compliance **Total: 2**

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:

Per Minnesota Statute 641.15, Subdivision 3a, facilities are required to utilize a mental health screening tool approved by the Commissioner of Corrections upon admission. The facility is currently using the approved Brief Jail Mental Health Screen (BJMHS); however, a review of ten inmate files indicated that in all ten of the files, the referral section of the screening tool was not completed.

Corrective Actions:

The facility must implement a procedure to ensure the referral section of the Brief Jail Mental Health Screen (BJMHS) is completed for all new admissions, train all staff on this procedure, and submit documentation of the completed training to the DOC within 15-days of receipt of this report.

Response Needed By: 05/26/2026

2. 2911.2525 ADMISSIONS. Subpart 3. Orientation to rules and services.

A facility shall develop a written policy and procedure that provides: A. a method for all newly admitted inmates to receive orientation information in a manner the inmates can understand; and B. documentation by a statement that is signed and dated by the inmate that the inmate completed orientation.

Inspection Findings:

The facility is providing written orientation materials to inmates to read independently, which does not ensure an understanding of the information by the inmate, especially if they do not read or write English.

Corrective Actions:

The facility has implemented a plan to ensure that all inmates are receiving orientation in a manner that ensures understanding of the information. There is no further corrective action required at this time. The inspector will continue to monitor for compliance.

Response Needed By: 05/11/2026

Chapter 2911 - Essential Rules Not In Compliance **Total: 1**

1. 2911.3700 EMERGENCIES AND UNUSUAL OCCURRENCES. Subpart 4. Reporting of unusual occurrences.

Incidents of an unusual or serious nature shall be reported within ten days of the incident in writing to the Department of Corrections in the format required by the department. The reports shall include the names of persons involved, staff and inmates, nature of the unusual occurrence, actions taken, and the date and time of the occurrence. Unusual occurrences requiring reporting to the DOC include such occurrences as: A. attempted suicide; B. suicide; C. homicide; D. death, by means other than suicide or homicide; E. serious injury or illness subsequent to detention including incidents resulting in hospitalization for medical care; F. hospitalization associated with mental health needs; G. attempted escape or escape from a secured facility; H. incidents of fire requiring medical treatment of staff or inmates or a response by a local fire authority; I. riot; J. assaults of one inmate by another that result in criminal charges or outside medical attention; K. assaults of staff by inmates that result in criminal charges or outside medical attention; L. injury to inmates through response to resistance by staff controlling inmate behavior; M. occurrences of infectious diseases and action taken relative to same when a medical authority has determined that the inmate must be isolated from other inmates; and N. reporting of all notices of intent to file litigation against the facility resulting from matters related to the detention or incarceration of an inmate; O. sexual misconduct, such as inmate on inmate, staff on inmate, and inmate on staff; and P. use of sexual materials, electronic media for sexual purposes, or both. In the event of an emergency such as serious illness or injury where death may be imminent, individuals designated by the inmate shall be notified. Permission for notification, if possible, shall be obtained from the inmate.

Inspection Findings:

The facility did not report incidents #36885 and #36883 within the 10-days required by the rule part.

Corrective Actions:

The facility shall review all special incidents required in this rule part from 1/1/26-4/30/26 and submit all qualifying incidents. The inspector will continue to monitor for compliance.

Response Needed By: 05/26/2026

INSPECTION COMMENTS

Physical Plant:
The physical plant deficiencies noted in the prior inspection report are still relevant and included in this report.
The poured and concrete masonry unit walls are showing signs of stress in the way of cracks and deterioration. The plumbing chases inspected had original cast iron plumbing exceeding 30 years in age. Many of the materials used in the original construction, including laminate counters and tile floors, are no longer used in detention facilities. The Stearns County Jail was built in 1987 with a capacity of 98 beds. The capacity today is 156 beds. This increase in beds has added additional strain to the facility infrastructure.

The control panels in the inmate housing areas are antiquated, and part replacement is becoming increasingly difficult.

The County has approved the construction of a new facility. The County must ensure that physical plant concerns that affect the safety and security of staff and inmates must be identified and addressed in a timely manner.

The facility will remain on biennial inspections.

JJDPA Compliance

On April 30, 2026, a Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act audit was conducted at the Stearns County Jail. The three core requirements that are looked at during the facility audit include 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, the Stearns County Jail held or processed 0 juveniles during the time frame from October 1, 2025 (the beginning of the Federal fiscal year) to the date of the review. One hundred percent of the juvenile data for this time frame was reviewed. The findings are as follows:

Stearns County policies, physical plant, and juvenile data, indicate that juveniles are not brought into the facility. There is a processing area outside the secure perimeter where all juveniles are processed. Youth are not typically held in this area for time periods longer than necessary to complete the processing and transport of the youth.

DSO: Upon review of facility data and physical plant, no violations of the facility holding status offenders in the jail were identified.

Jail Removal: All juveniles are processed outside the secure perimeter of the jail.

Sight and Sound separation: Based on facility policy and physical plant, there were no violations of sight and sound. Youth are transported to a juvenile facility, and they are brought directly to court on the hearing date. The facility does not participate in any "Scared straight" programs for any youth that are under public authority.

Based on the documentation reviewed, no violations of the JJDP Act were identified during the Stearns County jail inspection.

Report completed By: Jen Pfeifer – Senior Detention Facility Inspector **Signature:** Jennifer Pfeifer