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: Steele County Jail

Address: 2500 Alexander Street, Owatonna, MN 55060

MN Governing Rule: 2911 Local Adult Detention Facilities

Inspection Type: Biennial **Inspected By:** Gretta Holder – Detention Facility Inspector **Inspected on:** 04/16/2026

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: Assistant Jail Administrator Paul Prissel; Jail Administrator Anthony Buttera; Program Administrator Greg Huebbe

Officials Present for Exit Interview: Assistant Jail Administrator Paul Prissel; Jail Administrator Anthony Buttera

Issued Inspection Report to: Assistant Jail Administrator Paul Prissel; Jail Administrator Anthony Buttera; Sheriff Lon Thiele

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	125	1	0	99.21%	Compliance rating of 100%
2911	Essential	99	98	1	0	98.99%	Compliance rating of 90%

TERMS OF OPERATION

Authority to Operate: approval **Begins On:** 05/01/2026 **Ends On:** 04/30/2028 **Facility Type:** Jail

Placed on Biennial Status: Yes **Biennial Status Annual Compliance Form Due On:** 04/30/2027

Delinquent Juvenile Hold Approval: 24 hrs exclusive of weekends and holidays **Certificate Holder:** Steele 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	134	8/8/2023	90	120.60	120.6 operational capacity beds.	

RULE COMPLIANCE DETAILS

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

1. 2911.3700 EMERGENCIES AND UNUSUAL OCCURRENCES. Subpart 1. Emergency plan.

A facility shall have a written disaster plan. The plan shall include policies and procedures designed to protect the public by securely detaining inmates who represent a danger to the community or to themselves when the facility must be evacuated in total. The plan shall also include: A. location of alarms and fire fighting equipment; B. an emergency drill policy as follows: (1) at least annual drills at all facility locations; and (2) drills shall be conducted even when evacuation of extremely dangerous inmates may not be included; C. specific assignments and tasks for personnel; D. persons and emergency departments to be notified; E. procedure for evacuation of inmates; and F. arrangements for temporary confinement of inmates.

Inspection Findings:

The facility conducted a mock drill in 2024. The facility has not completed an annual emergency evacuation drill for the jail since the mock drill in 2024.

Corrective Actions:

Conduct an emergency evacuation drill to include all staff and outside agencies. Once completed submit documentation to the Department of Corrections.

Response Needed By: 05/29/2026

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

1. 2911.1300 CUSTODY STAFF TRAINING.

A facility shall have a written policy and procedure that provides that all custody staff receive 120 hours of orientation and training during the first year of employment. Forty of these hours are completed prior to being independently assigned to a particular post. All persons in this category are given an additional 16 hours of training each subsequent year. At a minimum, training completed before independent assignment to a particular post shall include: A. security procedures; B. supervision of inmates; C. signs of suicide risk and suicide precautions; D. vulnerable inmates; E. response to resistance regulations and tactics; F. report writing; G. inmate rules and regulations; H. rights and responsibilities of inmates; I. fire and emergency procedures; J. key control; K. interpersonal relations and communication skills; L. diversity training; M. distribution of medications; N. right to know; and O. blood-borne pathogens and communicable diseases.

Inspection Findings:

After reviewing new custody staff training records, documentation showed that new custody staff did not receive training in the following area: Vulnerable inmates.

Corrective Actions:

Schedule facility training for all staff that have not received the training on vulnerable inmates. Once training has been completed, submit the documentation to the Department of Corrections for review.

Response Needed By: 05/29/2026

INSPECTION COMMENTS

The facility will remain on biennial inspections.

JJDPA Compliance

Compliance Report for the monitoring Facilities Pursuant to the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002.

On April 7, 2026, a Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) audit was conducted.

A review of DOC Portal data indicated that 0 juveniles were processed in the Steele County Jail from October 1, 2025, to April 8, 2026. A review of the data identified 0 violations.

The three core requirements that were reviewed are the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO), Removal of Juveniles for Adult Jails and Lockups (Jail Removal), and Site and Sound separation.

DSO: No violations were identified for the facility holding status offenders in the facility.

Jail Removal: No violations were identified for the jail removal requirements.

Sight and Sound Separation: The facility design and policies allow for sight and sound separation that meet JJDPA requirements.

The facility does not participate in any “Scared Straight” programs for any juveniles that are under public authority.

Based on the documentation reviewed, 0 violations of the JJDPA were identified during the inspection of Steele County Jail.

Report completed By: Gretta Holder – Detention Facility Inspector **Signature:** Gretta Holder