

Task Force on Mandatory Minimum Sentences

Overview

In 2025 the Minnesota Legislature and Governor directed the creation of a task force to collect and analyze data on the charging, convicting, and sentencing of persons to mandatory minimum sentences; assessing whether current laws and practices promote public safety and equity in sentencing. The task force will use this information to create recommendations for the state legislature.

Task Force Membership

- Commissioner of Corrections, or designee
- Executive Director of MN Sentencing Guidelines Commission, or Designee
- State Public Defender, or Designee
- Statewide Coordinator of the Violent Crime Coordinating Council, or Designee
- Defense Attorney
- County Attorney from Hennepin or Ramsey County
- County Attorney from Outside the Seven-County Metropolitan Area
- Peace Officer Familiar with Shooting Investigations, Appointed by the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association
- Peace Officer Familiar with Shooting Investigations, Appointed by the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association
- Member Representing a Victims' Rights Organization
- Member of a Statewide Civil Rights Organization,
- Retired District Court Judge
- Impacted Person who is Directly Related to a Person who has been Convicted of a Mandatory Minimum Sentence or who has Themselves been Convicted of a Mandatory Minimum Sentence and has Completed the Sentence
- Person with Academic Expertise Regarding the Laws and Practices of Other States Relating to Mandatory Minimum Sentences

Deliverables

By August 16, 2026, the task force is tasked with providing written recommendations to the state legislature on the following:

- Collect and analyze data on charges, convictions, and sentences that involve mandatory minimum sentences.
- Collect and analyze data on mandatory minimum sentences in which a person received a mitigated durational departure because the mandatory minimum sentence was seen as inappropriate by a judge or county attorney, or both.
- Collect and analyze data on mandatory minimum sentences in which a person likely would have received a mitigated durational departure but for the enforcement of a mandatory minimum sentence.
- Collect and analyze data on charges, convictions, and sentences for codefendants of persons sentenced to a mandatory minimum sentence.
- Review relevant state statutes and state and federal court decisions.
- Receive input from persons who were convicted of a crime with a mandatory minimum sentence.
- Receive input from family members of persons who were convicted of a crime with a mandatory minimum sentence.
- Receive input from persons who were victims of crimes with a mandatory minimum sentence.
- Receive input from family members of persons who were victims of crimes with a mandatory minimum sentence.
- Analyze the benefits and unintended consequences of state statutes and practices related to the charging, convicting, and sentencing of persons of crimes with mandatory minimum sentences, including but not limited to an analysis of whether current statutes and practices:
 - promote public safety; and
 - properly punish a person for that person's role in an offense
- Make recommendations for legislative action, if any, on laws affecting:
 - the collection and reporting of data
 - the charging, convicting, and sentencing of persons for crimes with mandatory minimum sentences