



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:

Watonwan County Jail

Address: 715 Third Avenue S, PO BOX 168, St. James, MN 56081

MN Governing Rule: 2911 Local Adult Detention Facilities

Inspection Type: Biennial **Inspected By:** Jen Pfeifer – Senior Detention Facility Inspector **Inspected on:** 02/25/2026

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

Officials Present During Inspection: Jail Administrator Julie Carr

Officials Present for Exit Interview: Jail Administrator Julie Carr

Issued Inspection Report to: Jail Administrator Julie Carr; Sheriff Jared Bergeman; County Auditor Kelly Pauling

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	127	125	2	0	98.43%	Compliance rating of 100%
2911	Essential	100	100	0	0	100.00%	Compliance rating of 90%

TERMS OF OPERATION

Authority to Operate: approval **Begins On:** 04/01/2026 **Ends On:** 03/31/2028 **Facility Type:** 90 Day Lockup
Placed on Biennial Status: Yes **Biennial Status Annual Compliance Form Due On:** 03/31/2027
Delinquent Juvenile Hold Approval: 24 hrs exclusive of weekends and holidays **Certificate Holder:** Watonwan 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	20	12/1/2002	80	16.00	None	

RULE COMPLIANCE DETAILS

Chapter 2911 - Mandatory Rules Not In Compliance**Total: 2****1. 2911.5300 SEARCHES, SHAKEDOWNS, AND CONTRABAND CONTROL. Subpart 4. Daily inspections.**

A facility shall be inspected at least daily for contraband, evidence of breaches in security, and inoperable security equipment, and shall document the inspection.

Inspection Findings:

A review of facility documentation indicated that daily security inspections are not logged as being completed every day by staff.

Corrective Actions:

This was discussed in detail with facility leadership at the time of the inspection. The facility recently began documenting the daily inspections in Guardian; however, staff are not logging the required activity daily. The facility shall develop a plan to ensure the checks are completed and documented daily. The plan must be submitted to the DOC within 30-days of receipt of this report.

Response Needed By: 04/09/2026**2. 2911.5800 AVAILABILITY OF MEDICAL AND DENTAL RESOURCES. Subpart 6. Medical screening.**

A facility shall have a written policy and procedure that requires medical screening is performed and recorded by trained staff on all inmates on admission to the facility. The findings are to be recorded in a manner approved by the health authority. The screening process shall include procedures relating to: A. Inquiry into: (1) current illness and health problems, including dental emergencies, and other infectious diseases; (2) medication taken and special health requirements; (3) use of alcohol and other drugs that include types of drugs used, mode of use, amounts used, frequency used, date or time of last use, and history of problems that may have occurred after ceasing use, for example, convulsions; (4) past and present treatment or hospitalization for mental illness or attempted suicide; (5) other health problems designated by the health authority; and (6) signs and symptoms of active tuberculosis to include weight loss, night sweats, persistent cough lasting three weeks or longer, coughing up blood, low grade fever, fatigue, chest pain, prior history of active tuberculosis disease, and results of previous tuberculin skin or blood testing. B. Observations of: (1) behavior that includes state of consciousness, mental status, appearance, conduct, tremor, and sweating; and (2) body deformities, trauma markings, body piercings, bruises, lesions, and jaundice. C. Disposition to: (1) general population; (2) general population and referral to appropriate health care service; (3) referral to appropriate health care service on an emergency basis; and (4) other.

Inspection Findings:

The facility's medical screen does not include (3) mode, amount, frequency, withdrawal history, or date and time of last use regarding alcohol or drugs as required.

Corrective Actions:

The facility shall incorporate the required elements into the medical screen and submit to the Department of Corrections within 15-days of receipt of this report.

Response Needed By: 04/01/2026**INSPECTION COMMENTS**

The facility will remain on biennial inspections.

JJDPA Compliance

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

On February 25, 2026, a Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act audit was conducted. The Watonwan County Jail has received a "Rural Exception" to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP). This allows the facility to hold a delinquent juvenile up to 24 hours, excluding weekends and holidays. There are three core requirements that are looked at during our facility review. Those core requirements are Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO), Removal of Juveniles for Adult Jail and Adult Lockups (Jail Removal), and Sight and Sound separation.

Juvenile data and files were reviewed from October 1, 2025, to February 25, 2026. One (1) juvenile was booked into the facility during this time period.

DSO: No violations of the facility holding status offenders in the jail. Upon review of the files, indication was that children that were brought into the facility were indeed there for delinquent offenses.

Jail Removal: Files and DOC Portal data indicate that any children brought into the jail are removed well within the 24 hour time frame allowed per the "Rural Exception."

Sight and Sound Separation: The facility design and policies allow for proper sight and sound separation. Juvenile court times are held separately from adults and policy reflects this.

Court Holding: Court holding is located upstairs in the courthouse adjacent to the jail. Juvenile court times are time phased from adults for sight and sound separation. It is a nonsecure court holding but is monitored by staff at all time when court holding is being occupied.

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 found during the Watonwan County inspection.

Report completed By: Jen Pfeifer – Senior Detention Facility Inspector

Signature: _____

