

Law Library Service to Incarcerated People (LLSP) Annual Report for 2025

General Information

Under an Inter-Agency Agreement between the Minnesota Department of Corrections (MNDOC) and the Minnesota State Law Library (MSLL), the Law Library Service to Incarcerated People (LLSP) program provides law library service to people incarcerated in a MNDOC facility or otherwise under MNDOC jurisdiction.

Legal information requests are accepted by "kite," a request form available to Incarcerated Persons (IPs) at their facility. In addition, they may call or write to LLSP. While there is no cost to the IP, responses are limited to 80 pages, or 8 items, per 2-week period. IPs with pending court actions are given priority and their requests are answered weekly until their pending action is resolved.

LLSP librarians also work with library staff at each facility to ensure that a core collection of legal research materials is available at the facility.

Our Staff

In 2025, the LLSP staff worked diligently to consistently deliver quality service to incarcerated people in MNDOC facilities. Additionally, they completed projects, served on committees, and attended education programs, as you will see below in their own takes for 2025.

"This will be my fifth year working in LLSP. Looking back on the past five years I am so proud of how much this program has improved. We have improved our efficiency by digitizing resources and creating new resource packets. We have increased the accessibility of our program for our patrons by increasing the hours our patrons can call us and instituting monthly Zoom visits with the facilities. We have also raised awareness of LLSP by speaking at conferences and participating in different professional boards related to legal services to incarcerated people. I am honored to have been a part of these last five years at LLSP and look forward to continuing to work and improve this program." – Ally

"2025 had some big changes but we made it! This year I changed over to full-time while Ally took my part-time position. I took over the Lino Lakes facility from Ally, which we have been testing only emailing (not shipping) materials to, and have been streamlining my approach to the process. It may take time, but I am hopeful we can extend this to other facilities as well. Now that we've got a good routine, I am looking forward to my first full year of full-time work in 2026!" – Gabby

"2025 has been a very busy year. As you can see from the numbers below, we were close to helping almost a third of the incarcerated population in Minnesota.

I was fortunate to attend the Convening hosted by the San Francisco Public Library right before the start of the American Library Association Annual Conference in Philadelphia. During this day, librarians and others, from across the US, gathered and discussed how we could expand information access to

incarcerated people. I am grateful to have attended this meeting because I was able to inform other people about the existence of the LLSP program and its practices.

In 2025, I also became the Chair for the Newsletter Committee for Minnesota Association of Law Libraries, in which the committee and I were able to publish two newsletters. In addition, I am also a member of the Law Libraries Serving Persons Who Are Incarcerated (part of the Social Responsibilities Special Interest Sections) from American Association of Law Libraries. Here we discuss legal information access that incarcerated people have across the US.” – Valerie

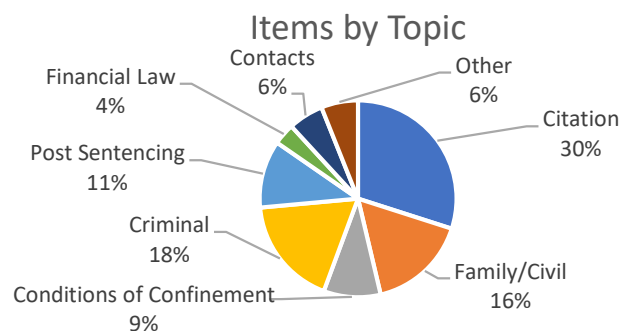
Distributing Materials Update

Due to changes in the practice of receiving mail in MNDOC facilities, LLSP reached out to each facility’s mailing room staff to ask how LLSP can help ease the mailing process. With the conversations that were had, LLSP made a few changes to how they distribute resources. The Lino Lakes facility opted to receive their items via email, print them on site, and distribute them to IPs. For the Moose Lake, Rush City, and Saint Cloud facilities, LLSP provides a cover page and binder clips the legal resources being sent to each IPs instead of packaging them individually. This cover page includes a list of the resources being sent to each IP, in case their packet comes undone in transit to their facility.

Requests by Numbers

- As of January 2026, total prison population: 8,160
- Incarcerated people assisted: 2,445 (nearly 30% of the incarcerated population)
- Items sent: 29,544
- Number of questions: 20,105
- Phone calls: 1,351 (36% increase from 2024)
- Virtual Visits: 477 (12% increase from 2024)

For 2025, there was a spike in requests by phone. The increase is likely the result of Minnesota Statute §241.252, which came into effect July 1, 2023, making phone calls free of charge for incarcerated individuals. Requests by phone increased 36% from 2024 to 2025 and have nearly doubled from the 707 phone call requests received in 2020.



Category Breakdown

Above is a chart that divides the items sent into topic areas. The categories are as follows: citation, family/civil, conditions of confinement, criminal, post sentencing, financial law, contacts, and other. The following is a brief mention of items that would typically fall into each category.

Citation: cases, statutes, laws, and any other legal resources that were specifically requested by citation or name

Family/Civil: family litigation (marriage, divorce, child custody and parenting time, child support, etc...) and civil litigation

Conditions of Confinement: rights in prison, medical/health standards in prison, procedures that prisons must follow

Criminal: evidence, search and seizure, criminal court forms, sentencing

Post Sentencing: appeals, briefs, sentence correction, Habeas Corpus

Financial Law: wills, estates, taxes, social security, bankruptcy

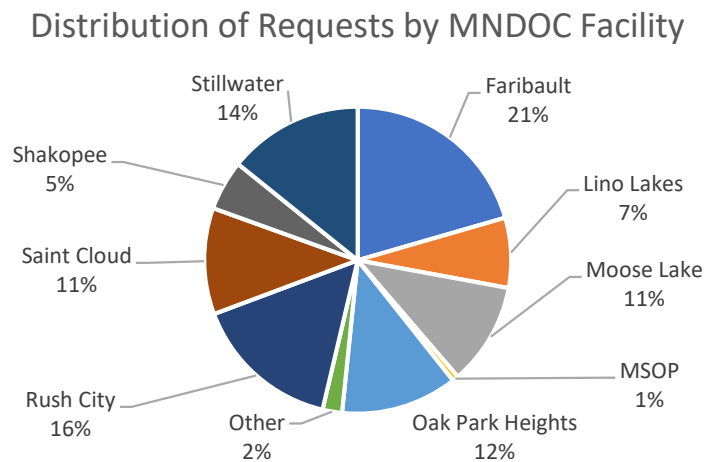
Contacts: contact information for attorneys, courts, pro bono organizations

Other: data practices, immigration, or any items that do not fall into any category mentioned above

A large portion of the items that were sent fell into the “citation” category. The second most sent items fell under “criminal.” This is expected since a lot of IPs use LLSP’s services to find legal information to help with their open cases.

Facility Breakdown

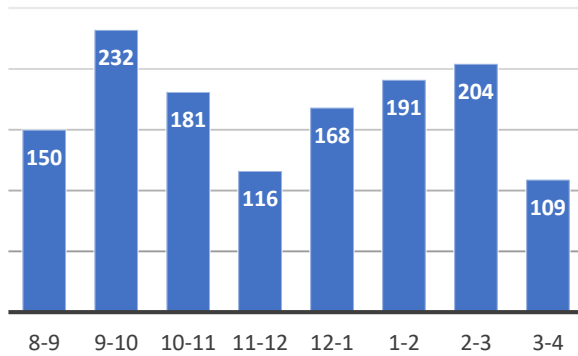
The following is a chart that divides items sent by facilities. There was a decrease in items being sent to STW from 2024 to 2025. This might be due to the phased closure of the Stillwater facility. As for the rest of the facilities, the percentage of items sent to each facility stayed relatively the same as last year.



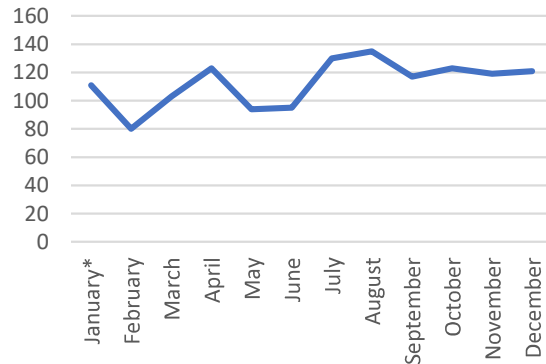
Phone Call Statistics

LLSP had a total of 1,351 phone calls this year (36% increase from 2024). Below are charts that demonstrate what time of day and what time of year they receive the most call requests.

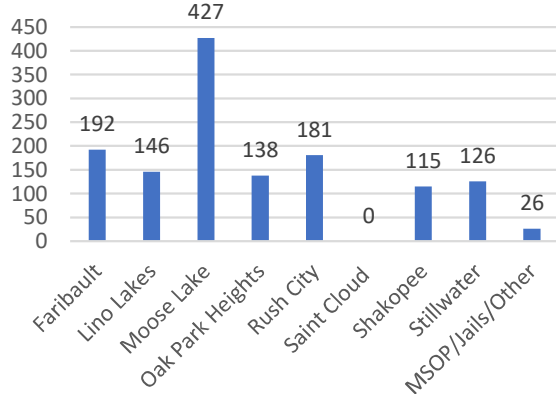
Call Time



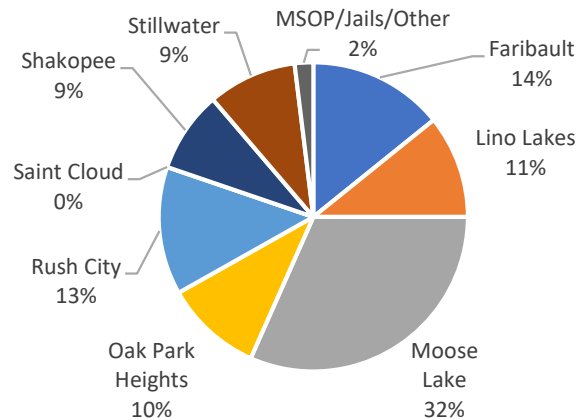
Calls per Month



Total Calls per Facility



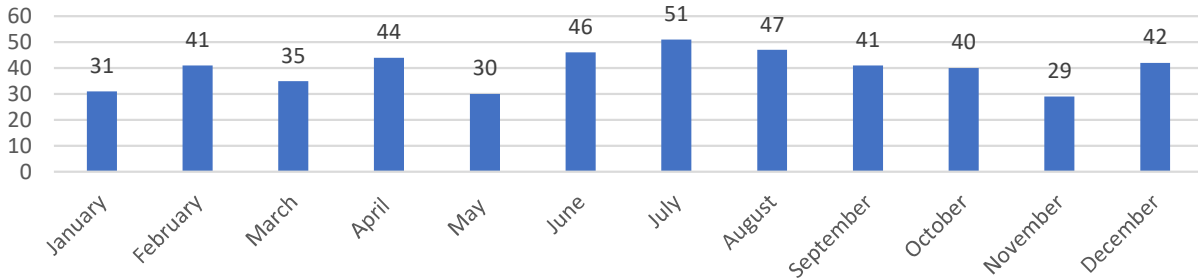
Percentage of Calls per Facility



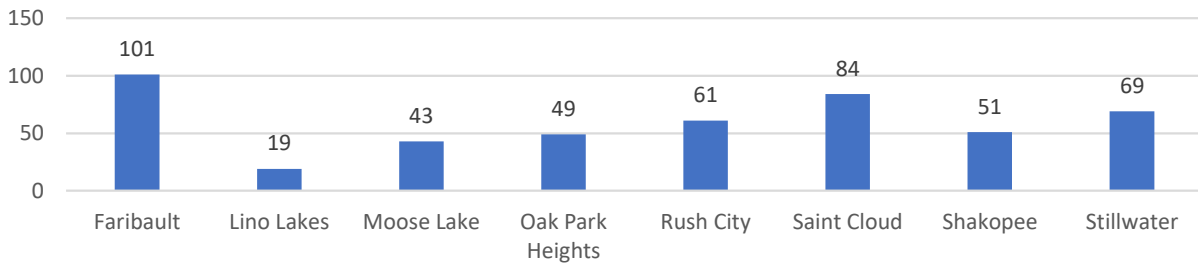
Virtual Visits

LLSP had a total of 477 virtual visits for 2025, which was a 12% increase from 2024. The following graphs demonstrate the number of virtual visits LLSP has per month and per facility.

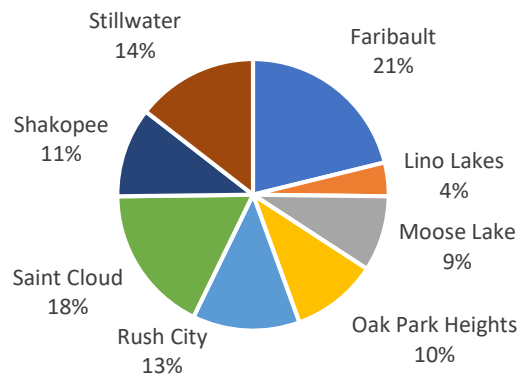
Virtual Visits per Month



Virtual Visits per Facility



Virtual Visits per Facility Percentage



Looking Ahead

For the year 2026, LLSP is hoping to go through and update some of their most used digital collection and update the "At a Glance" binder that is available at each of the Minnesota prison's libraries.