

Public Hearing Summary

July 17, 2025

The Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission (MSGC) held a public hearing on July 17, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., in the Afton Room at the Department of Corrections headquarters, 1450 Energy Park Drive, Saint Paul, MN 55108; and by telephone and/or electronically. This document is an MSGC staff summary of that public hearing.

[Minn. R. 3000.0500](#) provides that the record of a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Sentencing Guidelines will include the names of all persons who testified with respect to the proposed amendments, as well as the audio recording of the hearing. The audio and video recording of the hearing is available at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6v1BzjrIGY>.

Present in person were Chair Kelly Lyn Mitchell, and Commission members Marlin Meszaros and Cathryn Middlebrook. Also present in person were MSGC Executive Director Nate Reitz and staff member Matt Hlina, Jill Payne, and Devonte Roache. Public member Jamael Lundy from the Office of the Hennepin County Attorney was also in attendance.

Commission members present by telephone and/or electronically were Vice-Chair Michelle A. Larkin, and Commission members Prof. Richard S. Frase, Kyra Ladd, Justice Gordon L. Moore, III, Tim Morin, Chief Brian Mueller, and Surya Saxena; the notice required by Minn. Stat. § 13D.015 having been posted on the MSGC website on June 9, 2025. Also present by telephone and/or electronically were MSGC staff Leah Bower, Kathleen Madland, and Linda McBryer; and approximately five members of the public.

A. Call to Order

At 1:00 p.m., Chair Mitchell called the public hearing to order.

B. Purpose of the Hearing

Chair Mitchell stated that the public hearing was being held to consider proposed modifications to the 2024 Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines and Commentary resulting from the Commission's review of the 2025 Regular Session Laws and technical modifications to improve the Sentencing Guidelines: (A) Legislative amendments to crime laws affecting the Sentencing Guidelines – 2025 Regular Session – Eff. Aug. 1, 2025, and Jan. 1, 2026; (B) Other conforming amendments to crime laws affecting the Sentencing Guidelines – 2025 Regular Session – Effective August 1, 2025; and (C) Technical amendments to the Sentencing Guidelines – Effective August 1, 2025.

A complete copy of the proposed modifications was on the Commission's website at mn.gov/sentencing-guidelines/meetings, and they were available on the website since June 16, 2025, the same day the notice of the hearing was published in the State Register. Chair Mitchell further explained that there were some public-inspection copies available in the room, together with website access information.

C. Public Hearing Procedures

Chair Mitchell explained the procedures for the public hearing, as follows:

- Members of the public may make oral or written statements regarding the proposed modifications, and that they may address questions about the proposed modifications to the Commission, its staff, or witnesses, and, if members of the public make an oral statement, the Commission or its staff may ask questions of them.
- Member of the public who wished to testify about the proposed modifications must first register their name, address, telephone number, and the names of any individuals or associations that they represent in connection with the hearing.
- After public testimony, the public hearing will end. The Commission will hold the record open for five calendar days to accept additional written comments. The Commission will give due consideration to all written comments received within the five-day comment period, as well as all written comments received up until the public hearing.
- The Commission will meet on Thursday, July 24, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., to finally adopt or reject its proposals. That meeting will take place in the Afton Room at the Department of Corrections, 1450 Energy Park Drive, Saint Paul, MN 55108; and with remote participation optional.

D. Public Testimony

One written comment, from MSGC Director Nate Reitz, was received before the hearing. Director Reitz also testified in person, recommending changes to the proposed modifications in two categories.

In the first category, Director Reitz recommended treating the new fentanyl exposure offense separately from the existing methamphetamine exposure offense due to differences in scope and protected groups, and suggested adding fentanyl exposure to Guidelines Section 6, thus including the crime within the permissive consecutive sentencing policy.

Second, Director Reitz recommended revisions to proposed modifications related to assaults on a sheriffs or sheriff's deputies by jail inmates under Minn. Stat. § 609.2232(b): First, to clarify that the new paragraph does not require executed prison unless one of its numbered clauses applies; and, second, to narrow the drafted language of Guidelines 2.F.1.a(1)(iii) to apply only to the new statute's clause (b)(2).

Director Reitz answered questions from the Commission, and Chair Mitchell thanked Director Reitz for the testimony.

Chair Mitchell again asked if anyone wished to testify. The Commission took a 10-minute break to allow time for any remote spectators who wished to testify to register remotely.

E. Adjournment

After determining that there were no other testifiers, Chair Mitchell stated that the record would remain open for five calendar days, through July 22, 2025, to receive additional written comments at sentencing.guidelines@state.mn.us.

The Chair adjourned the public hearing at 1:26 p.m., without objection.