

Correctional Delivery Systems

Introduction

The network of local correctional systems in Minnesota is large and uniquely designed to allow for local control. Approximately 110,837 offenders – on supervised release, probation, or parole – are being supervised in Minnesota’s communities. By comparison, approximately 9,559 offenders are incarcerated in Minnesota’s prisons. This reflects Minnesota’s commitment to serving offenders at the local level when possible and reserving prison beds for the most serious, chronic offenders. Locally-delivered programs are a significant part of the state’s correctional services. There are three systems that are responsible for community supervision of offenders. This fact sheet provides a brief description of each system.

Minnesota Dept. of Corrections (DOC)

The DOC provides adult felony probation and supervised release supervision in the 53 counties that are not part of the Minnesota Community Corrections Act. State-provided services are under the direction of 17 district supervisors, three of which are intensive supervision district supervisors. The full cost is borne by the State of Minnesota.

In addition to felony services, the DOC also provides juvenile and misdemeanor services to the court in 28 counties. These counties, referred to as contract counties, are billed for service costs, including agent salary and fringe benefits. Counties are reimbursed for a portion of these costs with funds appropriated by the state legislature.

The DOC also provides intensive supervised release (ISR) services in 75 counties and through contracts with some CCA agencies.

Community Corrections Act (CCA)

Since its 1973 approval by the legislature, any Minnesota county or group of contiguous counties with a population exceeding 30,000 may elect to enter the CCA. Under this system, the county provides community supervision services. Funding is provided by a combination of state subsidy and county tax dollars. This system is overseen by a local Corrections Advisory Board and must submit comprehensive plans to the DOC for approval. Currently, 34 counties representing 19 jurisdictions participate in the CCA.

County Probation Officers (CPO)

CPOs work at the pleasure of the county’s chief judge and are supervised by the county’s court services director. State law allows the DOC to reimburse a portion of salary and fringe benefits of the director and CPOs with funds appropriated by the state legislature.

In these counties, felony offenders are supervised by the DOC, and CPOs supervise juvenile and most adult misdemeanor offenders. There are currently 25 counties utilizing this method of correctional delivery.

Types of Community Supervision

Supervised release: Community supervision for felony offenders released from prison on their court-ordered release date. In Minnesota, state law requires most offenders serve two-thirds of their sentence in prison and one-third in the community under supervision. Some offenders who require greater supervision are placed on intensive supervised release.

Probation: A community supervision sanction imposed on an offender by the court as an alternative to or in conjunction with confinement or intermediate sanctions. Offenders may be convicted of felony, gross misdemeanor, or misdemeanor offenses.

Parole: An indeterminate form of sentencing whereby offenders are released to community supervision after serving at least the minimum sentence imposed by the court. In Minnesota, only juvenile offenders and some life-sentenced inmates are eligible for parole. The commissioner of corrections is the paroling authority.

Delivery Systems Statutory Citations

Minnesota Department of Corrections
 Community Corrections Act
 County Probation Reimbursement

M.S. 241 and 244.19
 M.S. 401
 M.S. 244.19

