
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

ADULT AND JUVENILE SUPERVISION SERVICES

A central objective of Community Corrections' supervision approach is to provide accurate assessment of offenders in order to identify individual strengths and need areas and predict potential risk to the community. Assessment leads to a "road map" used for matching offenders with specific programs, supervision requirements, and strategies that are designed to repair the harm and reduce the risk to victims and communities. Further, departmental supervision practices help offenders develop competencies to modify or change destructive patterns and behaviors.

ADULT SERVICES

- Pre-Sentence Conditional Release
- Pre-Trial Evaluation, Assessment, Investigation
- Adult Probation Supervision
 - Administrative Supervision
 - Traditional Supervision
 - Sex Offender Supervision
 - Intensive Supervision
 - Transfer Out Supervision
- Supervised Release

Pre-Sentence Conditional Release

Community Corrections provides pre-trial monitoring of Court-ordered conditions imposed on offenders between court appearances. Pre-trial conditions may include electronic monitoring, use of alcohol monitoring equipment, random drug and alcohol testing, as well as telephone and/or in-person contacts with a probation officer. Violating pre-trial conditions results in offenders being taken into custody and returned to jail, pending Court review.

Pre-Trial Services

Pre-trial services include pre-dispositional investigations, bail evaluations, and pre-sentence investigations on offenders when ordered by the Court. Departmental pre-trial services also involve assessing offenders in the areas of risk/needs, chemical dependency, mental health, domestic violence, and gambling. As of July 1, 2009, the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA) is being administered to all domestic violence offenders to assist in determining appropriate programming interventions. Also as of that date, the LSI-R Pre-Screen tool is being used on all out-of-county gross misdemeanor DWI cases to determine if the case is appropriate for transfer.

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Risk/Needs Assessment

The Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) is a quantitative assessment tool that identifies an offender's re-offense risk and criminogenic need areas and determines the department's level of supervision.

The instrument contains 54 questions grouped in the following ten domains:

- Accommodation
- Alcohol/Drug Problems
- Attitudes/Orientation
- Companions
- Criminal History
- Education/Employment
- Family/Marital
- Financial
- Leisure/Recreation
- Emotional/Personal

The LSI-R is administered in a semi-structured interview format and is complemented with record checks and collateral contacts. Research indicates that the LSI-R reliably predicts offender risk to re-offend and identifies criminogenic needs (specific areas to target in order to reduce risk).

LSI-R results are instrumental in case planning and in determining appropriate supervision levels for offenders. The department's LSI-R score ranges used to determine supervision levels are as follows:

Supervision Level/Range of LSI-R Scores:

Supervision Level	Range of LSI-R Scores
Intensive Supervision	33 and above
Traditional Supervision: High Supervision	25-32
Medium Supervision	20-24
Administrative Supervision Low Risk Unit (LRU)	0-17
Low Risk Unit (LRU)	*18-19

* Resource limitations require that some medium-risk offenders (those scoring 18 and 19) be supervised by the Low Risk Unit (LRU).

The department continues to enter risk/needs data into a statewide electronic database. The statewide database helps Minnesota gain a better understanding of the risk/needs of all probation offenders and allows Washington County to better analyze its offender population.

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Adult Probation Supervision

Washington County Corrections utilizes an approach to supervising adult offenders that balances accountability/public safety, harm restoration, competency development, and that targets the most resources to the highest-risk offenders.

Administrative Supervision

Administrative supervision of adult offenders is provided by the department's Low Risk Unit (LRU). The LRU probation staff manage large caseloads of low-risk misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, and felony offenders. Sex offenders and supervised release offenders are ineligible for supervision by the LRU. In addition to monitoring compliance with Court-ordered conditions, LRU staff complete restitution investigations, prepare reports to the Court, participate in Sanction Conferencing and appear in court to provide relevant case information.

Traditional Supervision

Offenders assessed, per the LSI-R, as medium or high risk to re-offend receive traditional probation supervision. Traditionally supervised caseloads consist primarily of probation and supervised release offenders who reside in Washington County and who have committed any felony or gross misdemeanor offense, or a misdemeanor assault offense. However, the department's traditional supervision caseloads are increasingly comprised of offenders residing outside of Washington County. That is due to the growing number of offenders who cannot be transferred to their county of residence because they are noncompliant with case plan or court conditions, they are homeless or transient, or they are participating in treatment programs outside of Washington County.

Traditional supervision is structured and community-based. Staff providing traditional supervision complete risk assessments, develop case plans, monitor offender compliance with Court-ordered conditions, investigate violations of probation, complete sanctioning agreements, submit reports to the Court with recommendations, and conduct pre-sentence investigations if offenders commit new offenses while under supervision. In addition, supervision agents refer offenders to appropriate programs and services that are in accordance with needs identified in offender case plans. The department's probation officers are trained to utilize approaches and provide resources that enable offenders to repair the harm caused by their crime, reduce the risk of further criminal behavior, and develop competencies. Victims and the community are incorporated into traditional supervision practices whenever possible.

Sex Offender Supervision

The department began specialized sex-offender supervision in 2002. Three probation officer positions are devoted solely to the supervision of sex offenders. Staff caseload sizes comprise approximately 74 offenders who are required by law to register as predatory sex offenders, or who are convicted of other crimes involving sexually-deviant behavior. The average caseload size is approximately 54 local supervision cases, with the remainder being monitored in a transfer-out status. The smaller caseload sizes, compared with traditional supervision, allow sex-offender supervision probation officers to spend more time assessing and responding to

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offenders' risky behaviors and triggers. Supervision practices include the use of assessment tools specific to sex offenders. Probation officers spend a great deal of time in the community monitoring offender behavior, potential victim contact, and getting to know people in the community and family networks of offenders. Those strategies enable staff to more pro-actively respond to issues when they arise.

Sex offender supervision emphasizes attention to victim needs, collaborative programming and supervision, and effective treatment and assessment modalities. Polygraph testing is also an integral part of the supervision of sex offenders.

Offenders completing sex offender treatment and aftercare, who are assessed as lower risk to re-offend and who have a relapse prevention plan in place, may be eligible for group supervision. Offenders must successfully attend monthly groups for a minimum of 18 months, at which time they may be eligible for quarterly supervision groups for the remainder of their probation term. Probation officers who have received specialized training in sex offender supervision provide these group services.

Intensive Supervision

The department provides intensive supervision for very high-risk offenders (defined as a score above 32 on the LSI-R) placed on probation or supervised release. Intensive supervision probation officers contact offenders in the community. Random and unannounced visits are conducted any time day or night, seven days a week. Offenders must follow an approved daily schedule and notify their probation officer of any deviations. The department's intensive supervision practices incorporate results of the LSI-R into a case plan for offenders to adhere to. Case plans may require offenders to complete specialized programming, such as cognitive behavioral groups, job skills programming, substance abuse treatment or mental health treatment. Offenders under intensive supervision often benefit from a structured schedule that incorporates a treatment component along with other needed programs and services.

Intensive supervision consists of three phases that begin after completion of jail or prison sentences or release from an inpatient chemical dependency treatment program or halfway house. Each phase is a minimum of 90 days and includes a period of electronic home monitoring and/or electronic home alcohol monitoring with testing three times per day. The later phases of intensive supervision are less restrictive and encourage offenders to make responsible choices and decisions. Upon satisfactory completion of all three phases, offenders are transferred to traditional supervision for the duration of their probationary period.

Transfer Out Supervision

The department provides transfer out supervision to non-Washington County offenders from the time of sentencing until they are accepted for supervision in their county or state of residence. Once accepted for transfer, the offender's home jurisdiction is responsible for the direct case supervision, although the case remains open in Washington County until the probation term expires.

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Transfer out supervision probation officers are responsible for various progress, violation and discharge reports, as well as for making recommendations to the Court. The transfer out supervision unit involves one probation aide who monitors the case progress of offenders transferred for supervision in other jurisdictions and three probation officers who supervise cases pending transfer and any probation violations. At any given time, the transfer out unit is responsible for supervising approximately 1,500 cases.

Supervised Release

The Community Corrections Department supervises offenders released from state correctional facilities who are allowed to remain in the community as long as they adhere to certain conditions set by the MN Department of Corrections (DOC). The responsibility for supervised release offenders and for determining their conditions of release remains with the DOC, while the day-to-day supervision is provided by Community Corrections probation officers.

The highest-risk offenders released from state correctional institutions are placed under Intensive Supervised Release (ISR). In Washington County, the number of offenders under ISR has historically been very low, such that Community Corrections cannot justify staffing a separate program. Thus, the MN Department of Corrections directly supervises those offenders.