

MINNESOTA CORRECTIONAL DELIVERY SYSTEMS

Introduction

The network of local correctional systems in Minnesota is large and elaborate. Approximately 139,000 adult offenders – on supervised release, probation, or parole – are being supervised in Minnesota’s communities. By comparison, approximately 9,600 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 determine what agency or agencies are responsible for community supervision of offenders. This backgrounder provides a brief description of each system.

Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC)

The DOC provides adult felony probation and supervised release supervision in the 55 counties that are not part of the Minnesota Community Corrections Act. State-provided services are under the direction of 14 district supervisors, and 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 eligible for up to a 50 percent reimbursement of these costs per state law.

The DOC also provides intensive supervised release services, either directly or through contracts with counties.

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, 32 counties representing 17 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 salary and fringe benefits of the director and CPOs up to 50 percent if the county follows a state pay scale.

In these counties, felony offenders are supervised by the DOC, and CPOs supervise juvenile and most adult misdemeanor offenders. There are currently 27 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.

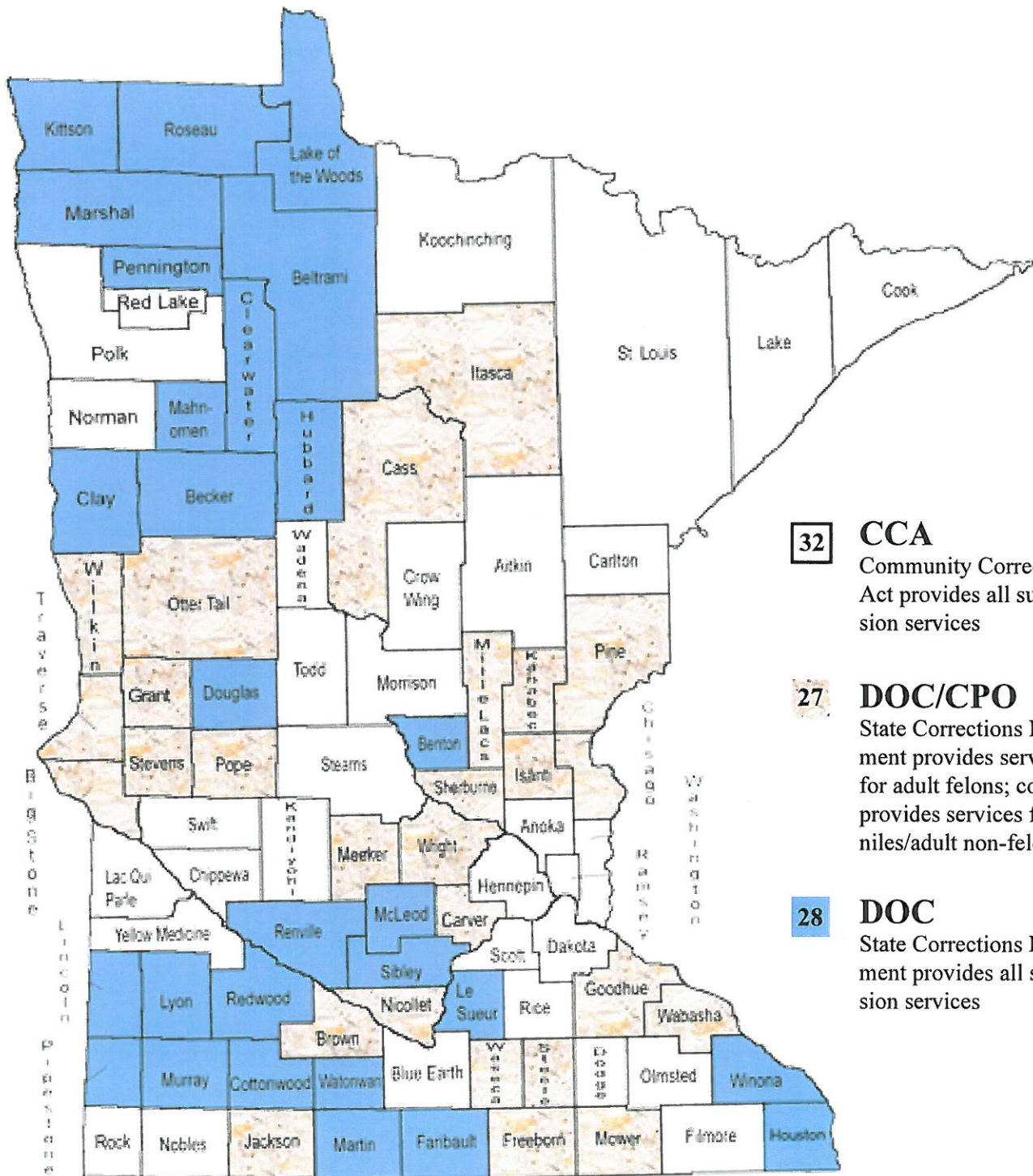
Probation: A community supervision sanction imposed on an offender by the court as an alternative to or in conjunction with confinement or intermediate sanctions. Offenders may be convicted of felony, gross misdemeanor, or misdemeanor offenses.

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	M.S. 241 and 244.19
Community Corrections Act	M.S. 401
County Probation Reimbursement	M.S. 244.19

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32 CCA
Community Corrections Act provides all supervision services

27 DOC/CPO
State Corrections Department provides services for adult felons; county provides services for juveniles/adult non-felons

28 DOC
State Corrections Department provides all supervision services

October 2010

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