

January 14, 2024

Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee

Senator Ron Latz
3105 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Senator Warren Limmer
2221 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee

Representative Kelly Moller
5th Floor, Centennial Office Bldg.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Representative Paul Novotny
2nd Floor, Centennial Office Bldg.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Legislators:

Minn. Stat. § 244.18 authorizes the Department of Corrections (DOC) to collect supervision fees from individuals on probation and supervised release and directs the department to report annually on fees imposed and collected. The purpose of the supervision fee is to defray costs associated with providing correctional services.

On January 31, 2023, the Commissioner of Corrections approved the elimination of DOC practice of collecting supervision fees on felony files, which is allowable under Minnesota Statute 244.18. The change was based on negative impacts to the clients we serve given the inability to pay while having no fiscal impact to the department. We continue to collect supervision fees in our contract offices until August 1, 2027, when the imposition of supervision fees will be eliminated altogether. Contract offices are locations where the DOC provides juvenile supervision services and adult supervision services for people on probation for misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor offenses.

This report contains a fiscal year (FY) summary of supervision fee assessment and collection, including information on the types of correctional services for which fees were imposed, and the amount of fees imposed and collected. The total cost of salaries and supplies incurred in development and preparation of this report was \$1,852 (reported as required by M.S. [3.197](#)).

Types of Correctional Services for which Fees are Imposed

The DOC provides correctional services for various types of community supervision. Community supervision services include face-to-face meetings, rehabilitative programming, curfew schedules, testing for chemical abstinence, random searches, and any other conditions that are

deemed appropriate by the court or the commissioner. The types of correctional services are as follows:

- **Probation** – a court-ordered sanction imposed upon an individual for a period of supervision as an alternative to confinement or in conjunction with confinement or intermediate sanctions. The purpose of probation is to deter further criminal behavior, hold the individual accountable, help provide reparation to crime victims and their communities, and provide individuals with opportunities for rehabilitation (Minn. Stat. § [609.02](#), subd. 15).
- **Supervised Release and Parole** – a period of community supervision to be served after the term of imprisonment as defined under Minn. Stat. § [244.01](#), subd. 8, or for a term determined by the commissioner for a life-sentenced individual.
- **Conditional Release** – community supervision to be served under the authority of the commissioner for a period mandated by statute based on the specific offense committed by the individual, such as felony DWI under Minn. Stat. § [169A.276](#), subd. 1(d), and criminal sexual conduct under Minn. Stat. § [609.3455](#).
- **Intensive Supervised Release (ISR)** – a special supervision program for high-risk individuals pursuant to Minn. Stat. § [244.05](#), subd. 6.
- **Challenge Incarceration Program Phases II and III (CIP)** – community supervision as part of the Challenge Incarceration early-release program pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ [244.17-244.172](#).
- **Conditional Release of Nonviolent Controlled Substance Offenders Program (CRP)** – community supervision as part of the early-release program for individuals with nonviolent controlled substance offenses pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 244.0513. This program expired July 1, 2011, and was reinstated July 1, 2013. See Minnesota Laws 2009 Ch. 83, Art. 3, § 11 and MN Laws 2013 Ch. 86 Art. 3, § 3.

Fee Assessment

The supervision fee is imposed upon each person supervised by DOC contract agents at the time supervision begins. In the past, the fee was charged for each year of supervision. In 2009, the DOC began assessing a one-time supervision fee per case file to establish consistency with other correctional agencies and for administrative efficiency. Fees are assessed per court file in the amount of \$300 for each felony, \$200 for each gross misdemeanor, and \$100 for each misdemeanor. The fees are assessed at the onset of supervision, less any amount already collected for that offense.

Fee Collection¹

By statute, supervision fees collected by DOC state agents are deposited into the General Fund, while fees collected from individuals supervised for misdemeanor offenses by DOC contract agents under Minn. Stat. § [244.19](#), subd. 1(d) are deposited with the county treasurer in the county where supervision is provided. **Table 1** reflects the amount of fees imposed and collected for the 2023 and 2024 fiscal years. Please note fees imposed during any given year may be collected in a subsequent year, as individuals are allowed to pay the fee over the course of one year. Due to the timing of assessment and collection, it remains difficult to project the compliance rate.

In FY2011, internal and external measures resulted in changes to the collection of fees through revenue recapture. The department's internal policy established a process for removal of any revenue recapture claims outside of the six-year statute of limitations for collection. Software changes at the Minnesota Department of Revenue also impacted the department's ability to collect supervision fees through recapture, as the new software only accepts recapture claims where the taxpayer has filed a tax return in the past four years. Previously, a claim could be submitted if the taxpayer had ever filed a tax return. The change has resulted in an increased number of debtors whose unpaid fees cannot be collected through recapture.

The Commissioner of Corrections is authorized to waive payment of supervision fees or to require completion of Sentence to Service (STS) or community work service (CWS) in lieu of payment. In FY2009, the department amended its internal policy to limit the availability of waivers and to provide for completion of community work service in lieu of direct payment. **Table 2** illustrates the reasons for waivers, along with the rate of each waiver to the number of fees imposed. In 2017, Minn. Stat. § [3.739](#) subd 2; Injury or Death of Conditionally Released Inmate, which covers the medical claims from individuals injured while completing *court ordered* STS or CWS was interpreted disallowing Minn. Stat. § [244.18](#); Local Correctional Fees; Imposition on Offenders to include STS and CWS for waivers beginning July 1, 2016. However, on May 30, 2017, new language was added to Minn. Stat. § [3.739](#) subd. 2, allowing for medical claim coverage when performing work in lieu of statutorily authorized correctional fees and once again making STS and CWS eligible for supervision fee waivers. In FY2024, 3,317 fees were imposed with 286 waived. This is a waiver rate of 8.6 percent.

¹ Previous reports included Administrative Hearing costs related to contested revenue recapture hearings. However, the administrative process changed and those costs are no longer reported.

Table 1: Supervision Fees Imposed and Collected for FY2023 and FY2024

<i>Release Type</i>	<i>2023 Fees Imposed</i>	<i>2024 Fees Imposed</i>
CIP	\$ 39,000	No Longer Imposed
ISR	29,500	No Longer Imposed
CRP	0	No Longer Imposed
Supervised Release	148,300	No Longer Imposed
Probation	1,385,500	\$ 487,200
Total	\$1,602,300	\$487,200
<i>Release Type</i>	<i>2023 Fees Collected</i>	<i>2024 Fees Collected</i>
CIP	\$ 33,353	\$ 21,170
ISR	17,442	19,921
CRP	745	1,000
Probation	738,208	782,070
Supervised Release	97,680	53,112
Total	\$887,428	\$877,273
Disbursement 2024		
General Fund \$584,371 County \$292,902		

Table 2: Supervision Fee Waivers by Release Type for FY2024

<i>Waiver Type</i>	<i>Special Supervision (ISR/CIP/CRP)</i>	<i>Probation</i>	<i>Supervised Released</i>	<i>Total Number of Waivers</i>	<i>Waiver Rates</i>
Death	1	61	2	64	1.9
Under \$25 – No Revenue Recapture	1	30	1	32	1.0
Work Service	2	174	14	190	5.7
Total Waivers	4	265	17	286	8.6

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this report.

Sincerely,



Paul Schnell
Commissioner

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