

Minnehaha County Juvenile Detention Center

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Minnehaha County Regional Juvenile Detention Center is prepared to treat the threat of the Covid-19 virus seriously. We recognize this is a new virus and an ever-evolving situation. We are committed to the safety of our youth in custody and our staff. Therefore, will be instituting precautions to protect everyone we encounter in everyday operations.

In efforts to reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus we are doing the following:

- Our Administration is receiving ongoing briefings.
- We have increased the frequency of cleaning our public areas (including lobbies, door handles, public bathrooms, etc.) and have continued the use of hospital-grade disinfectant.
- We have increased the deployment of antibacterial hand sanitizers.
- We are reinforcing information about proper hand washing and personal care procedures everyone should be following to be better protected.

Additionally, as of Friday, March 13, 2020, the Juvenile Detention Center will be suspending in person visits until further notice. Exceptions to this would be required professional visits (attorneys, counselors, etc.). Even with professional visits, we would encourage all possible contact be made telephonically or through approved video conferencing.

Parents/Guardians will now have the option to complete visits through an app called Zoom with their son/daughter during regular visit times. Video visits will begin on Tuesday, March 17th. The visits will need to be scheduled in advance with the youth's caseworker. Parents will be able to secure the following time slots 3:30-4:30pm, 4:30-5:30pm, 7:00-7:45pm and 7:45-8:15pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays on a first come, first serve basis. There will be three appointments available for each time slot. The Zoom meeting ID will be provided by the Caseworker.

Below is a link for Zoom set up. We know that there will be some bumps along the way, but we will be available to go through the instruction individually with each of you to ensure that you feel comfortable.

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362033-Getting-Started-on-Windows-and-Mac>

Also, phone calls will continue on the previously assigned days. Until further notice we will be adding phone calls on Saturdays and Sundays for all. Phone calls will be increased to fifteen minutes during this time as well. The process of completing the phone calls will not change.

While the decision to suspend in person visits until further notice has not been an easy decision, we can assure you we have relied on communications with many local and national sources to make this decision. We have a social responsibility to each other in situations such as these as we are one community. We will continue to evaluate and make any necessary changes as more is learned about this pandemic. Thank you for your understanding during this temporary period.

Sincerely,



Jamie Gravett
Director



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