



Minnesota Sex Offender Program

The Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP) provides comprehensive services to individuals who have been court-ordered to receive sex offender treatment. Most MSOP clients have completed prison sentences. Clients are civilly committed by the courts and placed in treatment for an indeterminate period of time. A court may commit a person to MSOP to ensure public safety if a judge determines that the individual is a “sexual psychopathic personality” or a “sexually dangerous person,” or both.

Treatment

Most clients begin treatment at the MSOP Moose Lake facility. After successfully progressing through treatment in Moose Lake, MSOP transfers clients to its St. Peter facility to continue treatment and begin working toward provisional discharge and reintegration.

- Clients acquire skills through active participation in group therapy and are provided opportunities to demonstrate meaningful change through participation in rehabilitative services including education, therapeutic recreational activities and vocational work program assignments.
- Treatment participation is voluntary. At present, more than 80 percent of MSOP treatment-eligible clients choose to participate.
- Clinical services include sex-offender specific treatment and rehabilitative programming based on individual need.

Facilities

MSOP is currently one program at two locations — Moose Lake and St. Peter. Both contribute to the mission of MSOP by specializing in different components of the treatment process.

Moose Lake treatment facility

- With the exception of clients receiving treatment in the alternative program, clients begin their treatment at MSOP’s Moose Lake facility.
- Moose Lake clients include individuals involved in the civil commitment process, nonparticipants, and also those participating in initial and primary stages of treatment.
- Specialty programming at the Moose Lake facility includes the following units: assisted living for clients who require specialized medical care; behavior therapy; conventional programming; corrective thinking; mental health; and young adult.
- In Moose Lake, clients are housed in two buildings. Main, originally built in 1995, is licensed for 150 clients; Complex One, built in 2009, has 400 licensed beds.

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St. Peter treatment facility

- Individuals who have demonstrated meaningful change and have progressed through treatment move to St. Peter to begin the reintegration process.
- St. Peter also provides alternative treatment for clients for whom conventional programming is not appropriate. These clients require unique treatment approaches because of compromised executive functioning due to developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, mental illness and/or severe learning disabilities.
- MSOP's St. Peter facility occupies three buildings on the St. Peter campus. The St. Peter secure treatment facility currently has 205 available beds and Community Preparation Services is a 23-bed residential setting outside the secure perimeter for those clients granted transfer by the courts. Upon completion of a building remodel in 2014, the total licensed beds for all three buildings will be 283.
- Clients who have been granted transfer by the courts to reside outside the secure perimeter are part of the Community Preparation Services program.

Cambridge Campus

The Minnesota Specialty Health System-Cambridge campus currently serves individuals who are civilly committed for developmental disabilities and present a public safety risk. They include some clients with sexual offense histories, others who are sent to the program as they undergo competency assessments to stand trial for criminal charges. Some clients have dual diagnoses as developmentally disabled and mentally ill. The facility is currently licensed for 16 clients and can serve up to 48 clients.

As part of a legal settlement agreement, the Cambridge facility has been working to move clients into more integrated community settings. At the same time, the Department of Human Services has been working to develop alternative placements for MSOP clients who can be served safely in settings that are secure but less restrictive than the facilities at Moose Lake and St. Peter.

The last of the current Cambridge clients will transfer to more integrated programs in the community by early 2014, making the facility available for MSOP clients if their transfers and provisional discharges are approved by the court. The legal review process for MSOP clients can take several months.

MSOP clients at Cambridge

The Cambridge site may be appropriate for persons with intellectual disabilities and medically compromised MSOP clients in selected cases.

MSOP is currently supporting the petitions of six clients who have developmental disability and/or mental illness. These clients are expected to benefit from treatment in a less restrictive, yet secure and highly supervised setting that exists at the Cambridge site. They range in age from their 40s to 80s. Under the law, the transfer or provisional discharge petitions will be considered by the Special Review Board. The ultimate decision will be made by the Supreme Court Appeal Panel, consisting of three district court judges.

Security measures

Public safety is a top priority. MSOP is working to enhance security features at the facility, including adding recording cameras, door alarms, a phone monitoring system, and installing a gate to limit access to the grounds. Additionally, MSOP clients will wear GPS (Global Positioning System) bracelets and be escorted by staff.