

Employee Misconduct

Allegations of serious misconduct by DOC employees are investigated by the OSI to determine whether the allegations are substantiated.

Investigators work closely with chief executive officers, administrators, and personnel directors who are responsible for discipline decisions.

The OSI ensures that all investigations are completed in accordance with state law, applicable employee union contract provisions, and DOC policies.

Staff Training

The OSI provides training to appropriate department staff and other criminal justice agencies in crime scene protection and processing, testifying in court, security threat group operations, drug trafficking, and other specialized areas.

The unit also provides training regarding the role of and services available from the OSI.

Emergency Contact Procedure

Since the work of the OSI frequently takes place outside regular business hours, the office has a 24-hour emergency contact procedure. This procedure is available to provide information regarding the location of a fugitive or other critical information regarding illegal inmate or releasee activity.

To contact the OSI after regular business hours only, call 651/642-0250. Leave a detailed message including the caller's name and phone number. The system will page an on-call investigator who will receive the message immediately.

Law Enforcement Viewer:
Request access at 651/917-4770

Visit our fugitive website at
<http://info.doc.state.mn.us/Fugitive/main.asp>

For additional information about facilities and programs of the Minnesota Department of Corrections, visit www.doc.state.mn.us or phone 651/361-7200, TTY 800/627-3529.

This information will be made available in an alternative format upon request.
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safer Minnesota*

OFFICE
OF SPECIAL

INVESTIGATIONS

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OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

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Intelligence phone: 651/917-4770

Mission

The mission of the Office of Special Investigations (OSI) is to provide the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) with a variety of coordinated investigative services. The goal of these services is to aid in accomplishing the department's primary purpose – protection of the public.

It is the responsibility of the department to manage its correctional facilities and community programs in an environment that respects and enforces lawful conduct by visitors, offenders, and staff.

Criminal activity by institution visitors or offenders is vigorously investigated. The OSI coordinates such investigations to ensure that department resources are used efficiently and productively.

Within department institutions, the OSI coordinates collection of information on security threat groups, escape-risk offenders, and individuals who threaten facility security. Data is disseminated to the appropriate criminal justice authority.

The OSI is available to consult with institution chief executive officers and other department administrators who are conducting employee misconduct investigations. These cases are those of a serious nature that may result in demotion or discharge if wrongdoing is substantiated.

The DOC is responsible for juvenile and adult offenders committed to its correctional facilities and for offenders on work release, supervised release, and intensive community supervision.

In the event an offender on one of these statuses escapes or absconds, the DOC issues an arrest warrant.

The OSI is designated as the official liaison with local, state and federal enforcement entities in investigative and apprehension matters. Since many investigations cross jurisdictional lines, OSI cooperation with other agencies is essential. The OSI maintains both a public fugitive website and a private law enforcement viewer for investigatory purposes.

Criminal Justice System Liaison

Cooperation with all elements of the criminal justice system, particularly law enforcement, is essential to ensure successful OSI investigations.

The OSI works closely with a network of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies; the court system including judges and prosecutors; corrections agents; and other criminal justice professionals.

The OSI also participates in professional associations and groups that specialize in relevant areas such as security threat group and gang activity, illegal drug use, and fugitive apprehension.

Criminal Investigations

In the event illegal activities are detected, the OSI is responsible for conducting an investigation and assisting law enforcement in criminal matters where law enforcement has primary investigatory responsibility and interest.

All OSI investigators are trained in the areas of laws of arrest, search and seizure, evidence preservation and collection, interviewing, testifying in court, and incarcerated death investigations.

Intelligence Information

The OSI manages intelligence information regarding fugitives and illegal inmate activities with the goal of anticipating and preventing serious problems. This effort includes overseeing the DOC's security threat groups and tracking program, which involves all state correctional facilities.

The OSI also systematically exchanges intelligence information with all DOC investigators and shares needed data with other state and local agencies.

Fugitive Apprehensions

The OSI Fugitive Apprehension Unit (FAU) is a law enforcement agency. The director of OSI is the Chief Law Enforcement Officer, and FAU members are all licensed peace officers. The unit exists by virtue of Minnesota Statutes 241.025.

The FAU is responsible for locating and arresting DOC fugitives including:

- ◆ Offenders who escaped from a correctional facility (in most cases, offenders on escape status are those who have walked away from a minimum-custody placement or failed to return from a furlough).
- ◆ Offenders who have absconded from a work release placement.
- ◆ Offenders who have violated conditions of their release and cannot be located.

The FAU works closely with other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in tracking and arresting fugitives. The FAU has statewide arrest authority for DOC-warranted fugitives.