



July 30, 2025

Commissioner Paul Schnell
Minnesota Department of Corrections
1450 Energy Park Drive
St. Paul, MN 55108-5219

RE: Dakota County Probation Fees

Commissioner Paul Schnell,

Pursuant to the 2023 modifications to Minnesota Statutes §244.18, specifically Subdivision 9, Dakota County hereby submits its written plan to phase out the collection of probation supervision fees.

Dakota County intends to continue assessing and collecting probation fees until the statutory deadline for their elimination, August 1, 2029. We understand the legislative direction and are preparing internally to ensure full compliance with the required phase-out timeline. Our plan involves maintaining current operational practices regarding supervision fees while gradually adjusting our administrative and financial systems to accommodate the elimination of these fees by the mandated date.

It is important to note that prior to the 2023 legislative changes, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners proactively addressed concerns regarding the impact of supervision fees on low-income individuals. In a step toward equity, the Board approved the elimination of probation fees for all individuals who qualified for a public defender. This action recognized the disproportionate burden such fees may place on economically disadvantaged clients.

Dakota County remains committed to a fair and effective probation system and will continue to monitor the implementation of this transition to ensure it aligns with state requirements and best serves our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suwana Kirkland", written over a light gray circular background.

Suwana Kirkland
Dakota County Community Corrections Director

Community Corrections

W www.dakotacounty.us

A Dakota County
Judicial Center
1560 Highway 55
Hastings, MN 55033
P 651-438-8288
F 651-438-8340

A Dakota County
Juvenile Services Center
1600 Highway 55
Hastings, MN 55033
P 651-438-8399
F 651-438-4960

A Dakota County
Northern Service Center
1 Mendota Rd. West, Suite 510
West. St. Paul, MN 55118
P 651-554-6060
F 651-554-6070

A Dakota County
Western Service Center
14955 Galaxie Ave.
Apple Valley, MN 55124
P 952-891-7200
F 952-891-7282