



Minnesota
SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
SINCE 1885

Minnesota Sheriffs' Association eLearning Courses

The following courses are available 24/7 at no charge to all Minnesota Sheriff's staff.

Course content may be found at www.mnlet.org. Log in is required.

Certificates will be available after each MSA course is completed. MSA will send course credits for licensed personnel to the MN POST Board each month.

MSA's newest courses:

Data Practices 101 (1 hour)

In what many call the information age, it is more important than ever that everyone who works in local government has a basic understanding of state law relating to collecting, distributing, and managing government data. This course presents a brief overview of the key aspects of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and how to reduce your civil, administrative, and criminal exposure for alleged violations of this important law.

Additional MSA courses:

Autism for Law Enforcement: Recognition & Response (4 hours)

This course fulfills all the state's learning objectives for the mandated category of autism. It is intended to increase awareness and knowledge about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and introduce first responders to practical tips and de-escalation strategies. The goal is to produce safe, effective, and positive interactions between autistic people and first responders.

Basic Medication Delivery (1 hour)

The Basic Medication Delivery course is an introductory course for correctional officers learning about medication delivery in the correctional setting. It will feature the rights of medication delivery, the officer's role in passing medications in their facility, and basic information on diabetes, Narcan, and epinephrine. This course is intended to provide an overview, with individual facility policies providing more detailed and specific information and expectations for officers to successfully deliver medication in their facility.

Basic Criminal Law and Procedure (2 hours)

Corrections and law enforcement staff are essential elements of an effective criminal justice system. This “Basic Criminal Law and Procedure” course will address basic concepts and definitions in criminal law, elements of the Constitution and rules of procedure.

This two-hour course will address constitutional elements, including the United States and the Minnesota Constitution. Procedural requirements, the Minnesota Rules of Criminal Procedure, and state statutes will be covered. We will look at the workflow of a case and how it works within the criminal justice system, including what the 36-Hour Rule and the 48-Hour Rule mean. Mental Illness and the criminal court system will be addressed, as well as victim rights.

While this course is applicable to anyone working in law enforcement, it will address basic concepts and rules of procedure that most directly impact the duties of custody and other jail staff.

This two-hour course contains a lot of content. You may want to consider completing sections one through three and taking a break before section four, Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Basic Data Practices for Corrections (2 hours)

Corrections staff routinely collects, receives, and distributes a great deal of information about inmates. This data is protected and regulated by state and federal laws. Violation of these laws by giving out too little or too much data can result in major civil liability to the officer and the agency and, in some cases, can lead to loss of employment and even criminal prosecution.

This two-hour course will address data practices issues, starting with a general overview of Data Practices laws and moving into specific information on corrections data. This basic, or introductory, course covers the terms and definitions of data practices. It discusses in depth the special status of data in correctional facilities, security issues, and other legal safeguards.

Bias Crimes: Part 1 - 3

Bias Crimes Part 1: Legal Aspects

This course will explore the profound impact of hate crimes and discuss how Law Enforcement can play a significant role in Minnesota’s fight against hate groups and crimes committed and motivated by bias. It aims to give officers a clear understanding of crimes motivated by bias and their responsibilities in investigating and reporting these crimes.

Bias Crimes Part 2: Extremist and Hate Groups

This course provides comprehensive training to criminal justice professionals, both on the front lines and behind the scenes, that will aid them in identifying hate groups, their ideology, and their associated symbols while helping to reduce liability regarding their interactions with white supremacists and hate groups. The training will enhance attendees’ abilities to recognize and respond to hate-related activities, ensuring public safety and upholding community standards.

Bias Crimes Part 3: Victims

This course focuses on understanding bias crimes and their impact on victims and the broader community. It equips learners with the knowledge and skills necessary to respond to and manage bias crimes effectively, always ensuring the safety and dignity of victims. The course also provides

practical guidance on investigating bias-motivated crimes, interviewing victims and witnesses, identifying bias indicators, and reporting bias crimes.

Correctional Health Nursing Basics (3 hours)

The primary duty of a correctional nurse is to restore and maintain the health of inmates using compassion, concern, and professionalism (Schonely & Know, 2013.) This three-hour course provides basic information to assist the new correctional nurse in his or her role. In this course, correctional nurses in Minnesota share relevant information regarding nursing in a jail, including standards of practice, common terms, jail policies, state rules, the environment, boundaries, your safety, onboarding, training, health conditions, infectious diseases, and mental health screenings.

Cultural Diversity and Multi-Cultural Communications in a Corrections Setting (1 hour)

This “Cultural Diversity and Multi-Cultural Communication” course is designed for both new correctional officers and those wanting a refresher. It is designed to help us understand and appreciate some of the cultural differences of those incarcerated. Community members and correctional officers shared their backgrounds, experiences, and thoughts on cultural diversity with us.

The four primary objectives of this Cultural Diversity course are:

1. To develop your cultural competence and teach you to be culturally responsive
2. To recognize communication styles of various cultures
3. To manage situations and respond appropriately
4. To respect people in your care by learning the PRIZE method

Basics of Animal Law and Investigations (1 hour)

The course was produced with the Minnesota Animal Humane Society to give LE a basic introduction to Minnesota’s animal welfare laws and specifically addresses animal negligence scenarios commonly encountered in the course of duty. It provides clarity to officers regarding the enforcement of MN statute 343.21 subdivision 7 - animal neglect.

Deaf, Deafblind and Hard of Hearing (1.5 - 2 hours)

This “Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing” course is designed to introduce learners to the deaf culture and present effective communication strategies with members of this community. This course will increase your awareness of the necessity for all agency staff to effectively communicate with persons affected by hearing loss.

This eLearning course covers deaf culture, basic sign language for law enforcement, guidelines and tips for patrol and jail staff, legal responsibilities, and communication methods. We will learn how to work with interpreters and ways we can all work together to communicate effectively.

Legal staff will discuss the expectations of the staff regarding the Americans with Disability Act, the Minnesota Human Rights Act, and the Minnesota State Statutes.

Implicit Bias (3 hours)

Implicit bias describes the automatic associations people make between groups of people and stereotypes about those groups. Under certain conditions, those automatic associations can influence behavior, making people respond in biased ways even when they are not explicitly prejudiced.

In the context of criminal justice and community safety, implicit bias has been shown to have a significant influence on the outcomes of interactions between police and citizens. While conscious, “traditional” racism has declined significantly in recent decades, research suggests that “implicit attitudes may be better at predicting and/or influencing behavior than self-reported explicit attitudes.” As with all types of bias, implicit bias can distort one’s perception and subsequent treatment in favor of or against a given person or group.

This course will also explore race relations in United States history. We will discuss institutionalized racism and its effect on the criminal justice system. We will also address impartial policing in the 21st century and community relations.

Implicit Bias for Corrections (1.5 hours) *This is a condensed version of the original Implicit Bias course. It has been adapted for corrections.*

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Incarcerated Parents Courses – Each course/part is 30 minutes

Part 1: How Trauma Disrupts Child Development

Part 1 of this training is focused on the basics of child development and how adversity and trauma can disrupt optimal child development. Part 1 has four training objectives: 1) review key data on parents in Minnesota jails, 2) summarize key developmental tasks or milestones of children and adolescents, 3) define Adverse Childhood Experiences, 4) apply this framework to consider how parental incarceration and other adversities disrupt healthy child development.

Part 2: Developmental Considerations for Jail Staff and Jail Administrators

Part 2 of the training focuses on applying the content from Part 1 and highlights developmental considerations for jail staff and jail administrators. Part 2 of this training has three objectives: 1) identify aspects of the jail environment that directly and indirectly impact children, 2) reflect on ways in which children’s developmental capacities impact their contact and relationships with incarcerated parents, 3) identify ways in which you can apply your knowledge of child development into your work with incarcerated parents and their families.

Introduction to PREA; Eliminating Sexual Abuse in Jails (1.5-2 hours)

This course is designed to help learners understand what PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) is and how we can eliminate sexual abuse in our facilities. This course covers the history of why a law was needed, how you recognize and respond to sexual abuse, and how you protect those in your care. This course also addresses staff misconduct and how to watch for warning signs within yourself and others.

The three primary objectives of this PREA course are:

1. To provide a history and overview of the Prison Rape Elimination Act
2. To learn about Inmate-on-Inmate Sexual Assault: how to prevent sexual assaults in your facility, who is at risk, how to respond, and how to protect individuals from sexual assault
3. To learn about Staff Sexual Misconduct: the levels of inappropriate behavior, ethical behavior, how to identify staff sexual misconduct, rights during an investigation and ways to prevent sexual assault in your facility.

Report Writing (1 hour)

This “Report Writing” course is suitable for new correctional officers or as a refresher for licensed deputies. The course includes basic report writing tips and styles and a video in which the participant is asked to write a report based on the incident. MSA Legal Counsel Rick Hodson provides insight and a brief review of how your report will be used in court and how you should prepare as you testify.

Report Writing is designed to instruct officers in fundamental concepts in writing clear, concise professional reports. The five primary objectives are:

1. The purpose and benefits of reports
2. How to take good notes and organize reports
3. The key requirements of a good report
4. How to write and edit reports
5. The legal aspects of a report

Suicide Awareness and Prevention (1 hour)

The class will increase suicide awareness and give tools to corrections staff to recognize, reduce, and prevent suicides in jail. This e-learning course covers crises, manipulation, communication skills, suicide prevention screening guidelines, and techniques to help the staff recognize suicidal inmates. Legal staff will also cover what the expectations are of the staff in preventing suicides in their facility.

PSAP – General Radio Courses Available (developed by MN ECN)

History of Armer

Interoperability 101

Radio 101

If you have questions or need further information, please contact:

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