

Health Regulation Division (HRD)

**PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF MINNESOTANS BY
MONITORING COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAWS AND RULES
DESIGNED TO PROTECT THEM**

Who we are

Health Regulation Division (HRD) staff at the Minnesota Department of Health perform a variety of important regulatory functions to protect Minnesotans, such as:

- Issuing state licenses and federal certifications.
- Completing inspections, investigations, reviews, or audits.
- Administering registries.
- Taking compliance or enforcement actions when necessary.
- Providing information to consumers and providers.

What we do

HRD works with many different types of providers and organizations including, but not limited to, healthcare facilities, health professions, body artists and piercers, and mortuary science. Our regulatory activities protect Minnesotans from before birth with our doula registry program, to after death with our oversight of morticians and funeral establishments. We maintain a strong relationship with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the many health facilities that are federally certified. We protect the health and safety of Minnesota's nursing home and assisted living residents, home care clients, hospital patients, people with intellectual disabilities, families obtaining services at funeral establishments, birth center clients, body art establishment clients, and other clients of health care.

Much of our work focuses on protecting older Minnesotans and vulnerable adults. As Minnesota's population ages over the next 20 years, older residents will require an increasing amount of health services and the need for health protection will become even more important.

By the numbers 2024

- Monitor 4,699 health care facilities and providers for safety and quality.
- Review qualifications and regulate approximately 3,300 health professionals.
- Maintain a registry of more than 46,524 active nursing assistants.
- Inspect 523 funeral establishments, 92 crematoriums, and license 1,122 morticians.
- Audit approximately 6,000 federal nursing home resident health assessments to ensure accurate submission, completion, and billing for services.

- License and inspect 283 body art establishments and 2,438 body art technicians.
- Review plans and inspect approximately 489 healthcare construction projects per year with total construction costs over \$1.5 billion.
- Register more than 2,950 spoken language health interpreters.
- Facilitate public hearings to inform the public about hospitals closing, reducing services, or moving services.
- Enhance a culture of safety by providing collaborative spaces for providers to express barriers to compliance and from that, working together on solutions that improve compliance and maintain consumer protections.

Services provided

Licensing and survey

- Evaluate license, registration, or federal certification submissions from applicants against minimum standards to ensure all providers meet minimum qualifications and are qualified to practice.
- Conduct surveys of facilities and providers to verify compliance with state and/or federal laws, regulations and rules as appropriate to their license, registration, or certification and protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents.
- Ensure that life safety code inspections are conducted and that health facilities meet physical plant requirements that protect the health and safety of patients and residents.
- Review funeral service providers to ensure pre-need funds paid by families are protected and available to pay for services when needed.
- Regulate body art establishments and technicians to prevent blood borne infections.
- Conduct audits of federally certified nursing homes resident assessments to ensure facilities are accurately completing the health assessment and billing Medicaid appropriately for services provided.

Complaints, investigations, and enforcement

- Respond to thousands of citizens' calls each year, investigate complaints, and initiate enforcement actions when appropriate against health facilities and providers found to be violating state or federal laws.
- Enforce the laws protecting persons from maltreatment under the Vulnerable Adults Act and the Maltreatment of Minors Act.
- Verify health facilities have properly taken steps to protect residents in the event of any type of emergency not limited to fires, tornadoes, floods, public health emergencies/pandemic and health provider strikes, based on facility assessment of risk.

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