

*Received January 27, 2021*

My name is Merry Schoon and my son is indefinitely incarcerated at the MSOP in Moose Lake. I know that they call it a Secure Treatment Center, but regardless, it is built and run as a prison, and adopts most of DOC policies, So I hope you will hear my testimony, as this happened a week ago today. About 7 months ago, my son was moved within, the facility and placed in a different unit, with a new room mate, who shall remain nameless, for my sons' safety. His "celly" is aggressive in nature, and many evenings my son had to talk him down, in order to keep from being hit. However, last Wednesday night, during his crazy rant and rave, the man threatened to kill my son in his sleep. He stated this twice. Of course my son did not sleep that night, and after breakfast, refused to switch in for count with his cell mate, because my son was afraid for his safety. The guards then took my son to the High Security Area (the hole) where he spent 5 days. These are men who have served their sentences for their crimes, and are now in civil commitment, and confined indefinitely. The conditions since Covid restrictions have been in place, have become more horrible. These men are frustrated and angry. The steps they need to take, to gain release, are too difficult, which is why only 13 men in, 27 years, have been released, not counting the 89 who have died, while living there. Many are miss diagnosed and not given decent treatment. They have now started a hunger strike. It's my sons fifth day of not eating. Things are getting serious. Please consider MSOP, along with the other DOC institutions, in your decision making.

I am afraid for my son's well being, and his life.

Thank-you

Merry Schoon  
Appleton, MN