



July 15, 2021

TO: [REDACTED]
Assistant Director Custody Management

FROM: [REDACTED]
Lead Compliance Inspector
The Nakamoto Group, Inc.

SUBJECT: **Annual Inspection of the Etowah County Detention Center**

The Nakamoto Group, Inc. performed an annual hybrid inspection for compliance with the ICE National Detention Standards (NDS) 2019 of the Etowah County Detention Center in Gadsden, Alabama during the period of July 13-15, 2021. This is an IGSA facility.

The inspection was performed under the guidance of [REDACTED], Lead Compliance Inspector. Team Members were:

Subject Matter Field	Team Member
Detainee Rights	[REDACTED]
Security	[REDACTED]
Medical Care	[REDACTED]
Medical Care	[REDACTED]
Safety	[REDACTED]

Type of Inspection

This is a scheduled annual hybrid inspection which is performed to determine overall compliance with the ICE NDS 2019 for Over 72 hour facilities. The facility received a rating of Meets Standards during the October 2020 inspection.

Inspection Summary

The Etowah County Detention Center is currently accredited by:

- The American Correctional Association (ACA) – Yes
- The National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) – Yes
- The Joint Commission (TJC) - No
- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) - Yes

Standards Compliance

The following information is a summary of the standards that were reviewed and overall compliance that was determined as a result of the 2020 NDS (2000) and 2021 NDS (2019) compliance annual inspections:



2020 Annual Inspection	
Meets Standards	37
Does Not Meet Standards	0
Repeat Finding	0
Not Applicable	2

2021 Annual Inspection	
Meets Standards	31
Does Not Meet Standards	0
Repeat Finding	0
Not Applicable	2

The inspection team identified twenty-eight (28) deficient components in the following sixteen (16) standards:

- Environmental Health and Safety – 4
- Transportation by Land – 1
- Admission and Release – 2
- Facility Security and Control – 1
- Detainee Funds and Personal Property – 1
- Hold Rooms in Detention Facilities – 2
- Post Orders – 2
- Searches of Detainees – 1
- Staff/Detainee Communications – 1
- Food Service – 3
- Disability Identification, Assessment, and Accommodation – 1
- Telephone Access – 1
- Visitation – 3
- Detainee Handbook – 1
- Grievance System – 3
- Detention Files – 1

Facility Snapshot/Description

The Etowah County Detention Center is a [REDACTED] direct-supervision facility located in downtown Gadsden, Alabama. The facility, operated by the Etowah County Sheriff's Office, houses male and female detainees for Etowah County and adult male ICE detainees of all classification designations. [REDACTED] Female detainees will be housed on a short-term basis. [REDACTED]

The physical plant includes a three and one-half story building with ten individual housing units. ICE detainees are housed separately from local jurisdictions in cell housing units ranging in configuration of two, four, and six-person cells. Detainees are permitted to be out of their cells the majority of the day socializing in the dayroom or participating in other indoor recreational activities. The dayrooms are equipped with televisions, playing cards, board games, telephones, and visitation kiosks. Each detainee is provided with an electronic tablet that enables them to watch movies, read books, and make telephone calls. General visitation has been suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions. Video visitation is available for a fee. Each ICE detainee housing unit has a room designated as a law library equipped with computers that provide access to the LexisNexis electronic law library. An outdoor recreation area is also available which provides detainees with exercise opportunities outside their housing units. During the inspection, general population ICE detainees were housed in two housing units according to compatible classification levels.

All newly admitted detainees are housed in a quarantine unit for fourteen days. If they remain symptom free, they are moved to general population. If they become symptomatic and test positive, they are moved from the quarantine unit to an isolation unit where they remain until symptom free.

No detainees volunteered to be interviewed by the inspection team. Informally, each inspector toured the detainee housing units and recreation areas multiple times to observe operations and speak with detainees. No less than forty-seven detainees spoke to the team. No detainee had filed a grievance or called the OIG hotline.

One detainee stated that he did not know how to contact his attorney. The compliance officer spoke with the detainee during the inspection to provide follow-up. The majority of detainees wanted to discuss their respective cases. There were no concerns addressed about food service, medical (with the exception of one unfounded concern), or any facility operations/staff. Detainees appeared to be very relaxed and had the opportunity to either go to the dayroom or attached recreation yard for extended periods of time. Five confidential interviews were conducted and no issues or concerns were expressed.

One detainee complained of stomach issues. The medical SME and HSA reviewed his care. He had been seen the night before by nursing staff regarding the same issue. He was also seen by the nurse practitioner on the day of his complaint. He is being treated and followed appropriately.

Medical Care is provided by Doctors' Care Physicians, P.C. Food Service is provided by Etowah County employees. Detainees are not charged co-pay fees for medical, dental, or mental health services. Detainee telephone services and tablets are provided by Securus.

Areas of Concern/Significant Observations

There were no areas of concern or significant observations noted during the inspection. The inspection was conducted with four inspectors on-site and one inspector (QMC) working remotely. The inspector was unable to personally observe practices and procedures within the facility.

Recommended Rating and Justification

The Lead Compliance Inspector recommends that the facility receive a rating of Meets Standards. The facility complies with the ICE National Detention Standards (NDS) 2019 unless unobserved practices (remote inspector) and conditions are contrary to what was reported to the inspection team. No (0) standards were found Does Not Meet Standards. Two (2) standards were Not Applicable (N/A). All remaining thirty-one (31) standards were found to Meet Standards.

LCI Assurance Statement

The findings of compliance and non-compliance are accurately and completely documented on the G-324 Inspection Form and are supported by documentation in the inspection file. An out brief was conducted at the facility. In addition to the entire Nakamoto Group Inspection Team, the following participated in the conference call:

- ICE Officials – [REDACTED]
- Facility staff – [REDACTED]



The Nakamoto Group, Inc.

[Redacted]

[Redacted] Lead Compliance Inspector

July 15, 2021

Printed Name of LCI

Date

[Redacted]