MEMORANDUM

DATE       April 10, 2006

TO         John P. Torres, Acting Director, Office of Detention and Removal, Immigration and Customs Enforcement

CC         ABA Commission on Immigration

FROM       American Bar Association Delegation to the San Diego Contract Detention Facility

RE         Report on Observational Tour of the San Diego Contract Detention Facility

This memorandum summarizes and evaluates information gathered at the San Diego Correctional Facility (the “Facility”), which is a medium-maximum security facility that is operated by Corrections Corporation of America (“CCA”) under contract for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”), during the delegation’s December 9, 2005 visit to the Facility. The information was gathered via the delegation’s observation of the Facility, interviews with twelve detainees, as well as discussions with Facility and ICE staff.

I. ICE DETENTION STANDARDS

In November 2000, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (“INS”) promulgated the INS Detention Standards (the “Standards”) to ensure the “safe, secure and humane treatment” of immigration detainees. The thirty-eight Standards contained in the Detention Operations Manual cover a broad spectrum of issues ranging from visitation policies to grievance procedures and food service. These Standards apply to ICE-operated detention centers and other facilities that house immigration detainees pursuant to a contract or intergovernmental service agreement (“IGSA”).

The Standards went into effect at ICE-operated detention facilities on January 1, 2001. ICE intended to phase in the Standards at all of its contract and IGSA facilities by December 31, 2002. The Standards constitute a “floor” rather than a “ceiling” for the treatment of immigration detainees. In other words, they are designed to establish the minimum requirements to which ICE must adhere in its facilities. Each Field Office or Officer-in-Charge (“OIC”) has discretion to promulgate polices and practices affording ICE detainees more enhanced rights and protections, beyond those provided for by the Standards.

II. INTRODUCTION

A. The Delegation’s Visit, December 9, 2005

The delegation was comprised of attorneys, law clerks and legal assistants from the Newport Beach office of Dechert LLP, including

Delegation members interviewed the following detainees:

Effective March 1, 2003, the INS ceased to exist as an agency of the Department of Justice. The INS’ immigration enforcement functions were previously transferred to ICE, a division of the newly-created Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”).
On Friday, December 9, 2005, our delegation met with several members of the Facility’s staff and ICE’s assistant OIC, Officer Prior to touring the Facility, Officer and Mr., the Technical Representative of CCA Contracting Officers, provided an overview of the Facility and answered general questions about the Facility. Assistant Warden and Officer led our delegation on a tour of the Facility. Officer participated in post-tour follow-up discussions. The delegation also met with other Facility staff along the tour, including Officer, the chief officer at the Facility of the U.S. Public Health Service (“PHS”). The delegation appreciates the cooperation of these individuals. They were direct and accommodating during our tour of the Facility.

Our report is based on the discussions we had with the staff of the Facility and ICE, as well as observations of the Facility and interviews with twelve immigration detainees, including one detainee who stated he was voluntarily in the segregation unit due to his dissatisfaction with the manner in which the Facility’s staff managed violence and gang activity among the detainee population. In some instances, the detainees’ reports were compatible with statements made by Facility staff and/or our observations. In such cases, the delegation was able to more accurately determine whether the Facility successfully meets the Standards. In certain instances, however, the detainees’ reports conflicted with statements made by Facility staff. Where we were unable to verify the conflicting reports, the delegation was unable to conclusively determine whether Standards are met.

B. General Information About the San Diego Contract Detention Facility

The Facility is a medium-maximum security facility that houses federal immigration detainees according to a contract with ICE. According to Officer, the Facility has the capacity to hold 1,300 detainees, including 1,000 ICE detainees and 300 United States Marshal inmates. The United States Marshal inmates are housed at Pod B. On the day of the delegation’s tour, the Facility had a population count of approximately 945 detainees.

Per Diem paid to the Facility by ICE is approximately $56 per detainee per day for up to 900 detainees and approximately $92 per day for each subsequent detainee. The Facility houses mostly males – at the time of our visit, approximately 170 women were housed there.

Individuals who do not contest their cases are detained for approximately five business days at the Facility. Contested cases take longer–anywhere from a few days for Mexican nationals to approximately two weeks for individuals of Central American nationalities to more than two weeks for detainees of other nationalities.

III. LEGAL ACCESS STANDARDS
A. Legal Access/Visitation

1. Visitation by Attorneys

The Standards suggest that facilities permit legal visitation seven days per week. Attorneys should have access to their clients eight hours per day during the week and four hours per day during the weekend. The visits must be private, and should not be interrupted for head counts. If legal visits proceed through a scheduled meal, the detainee shall receive a meal after the visit. Facilities should establish a procedure by which attorneys may call to determine whether a detainee is housed in a particular facility. Detention centers should permit visits from attorneys, other legal representatives, legal assistants, and interpreters.

The Facility has not fully met this section of the Standards; conversations in the contact visit rooms may be overheard, and non-segregated detainees who miss meals to meet with attorneys are not given food following the meeting as required by the Standards. Attorneys may visit the detainees between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:45 p.m. daily and at other times by request, and they may conduct telephone conferences with their clients. Detainees indicated it is common for visitors (attorneys and personal) to wait long periods of time to see a detainee.

Each pod has two attorney visitation booths. All attorney visits are contact visits, unless special circumstances warrant a non-contact visit. During a contact visit, there is only a table between the detainee and the attorney. The contact interview rooms are approximately eight feet by fifteen feet, with glass observation windows approximately half-way down from the ceiling on one exterior wall. Each room has two separate entrances, one for each side of the interview table. Conversations in the contact interview rooms are not necessarily private; both doors have approximately 1 – 1 ¼” clearances between the concrete floor and the bottom of the doors, allowing conversations in the interview rooms to

| 18 | Notes of delegation members on conversations with detainees and on conversations with detainees |
| 19 | Observation of delegation member |
| 20 | Notes of delegation member on conversation with Officer Non-contact visits may be conducted for medical reasons and with detainees who are housed in a segregation unit. |
| 21 | Observation of delegation member |
| 22 | Observation of delegation member |
| 23 | Observation of delegation member |
be clearly overheard from the outside.\textsuperscript{24} Frequent interruptions by Assistant Wardens may cause visits to be cut short.\textsuperscript{25}

According to Facility staff, attorney visits are permitted during mealtime and through head counts, and the kitchen will provide a regular meal to the detainee should the meeting continue through a meal.\textsuperscript{26} With the exception of the detainee housed in the segregation unit, however, detainees reported that the kitchen will not provide a regular meal to a detainee whose meeting continues through a meal.\textsuperscript{27} Specifically, if a detainee is visiting with an attorney and it is mealtime, recreation time or law library time, the detainee must choose between either the meal/recreation/law library time or the attorney visit.\textsuperscript{28} If the detainee chooses the attorney visit, no makeup meal or recreation/law library time is provided; rather, such time is forfeited.\textsuperscript{29} The detainee who was housed in the segregation unit stated that he has been provided meals he missed during meetings with an attorney upon return to his unit.\textsuperscript{30}

We received conflicting reports on whether detainees are subject to strip searches after attorney visits – information provided by Facility staff differs from the information the detainees provided during interviews. The Handbook states that a visual strip search will occur after any contact visit, including attorney visits.\textsuperscript{31} Facility staff stated that detainees are subject only to a pat down search after a legal contact visit.\textsuperscript{32} However, one detainee stated that he generally is subject to a strip search after a legal contact visit;\textsuperscript{33} while another detainee stated that the searches that the guards perform following visits with attorneys are not strip searches.\textsuperscript{34} During the searches, guards sometimes take detainees’ legal

\textsuperscript{24} Observations of delegation member.
\textsuperscript{25} Notes of delegation members and on conversation with detainee.
\textsuperscript{26} Notes of delegation member on conversation with Officer.
\textsuperscript{27} Notes of delegation members and on conversation with detainee.
\textsuperscript{28} Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainees.
\textsuperscript{29} Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee.
\textsuperscript{30} Handbook, p. 5.
\textsuperscript{31} Notes of delegation member on conversation with Officer.
\textsuperscript{32} Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee.
\textsuperscript{33} Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee.
\textsuperscript{34} Notes of delegation members and on conversations with detainee.
The Handbook states that attorneys may bring legal materials to a detainee during a visit, which an officer may search for contraband, in the presence of the detainee, but will not read.36

2. Visitation by Family and Friends

The Standards suggest that facilities establish written visitation hours and procedures, and make them available to the public.37 The visiting area is to be “appropriately furnished and arranged, and as comfortable and pleasant as practicable.”38 Visiting hours shall be set on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, and the Standards encourage facilities to accommodate visitors at other times when they are facing a particular hardship.39 Visits should be at least thirty minutes long, and longer when possible.40

The Facility has not fully met this section of the Standards; visitors wait for extended periods and have been mistreated while waiting. Family and friends are allowed to visit detainees; the visits are generally limited to sixty minutes.41 Contact visits are not allowed for non-attorney visitors.42 Detainees complained that it “takes too long to get people in,”43 and that visitors must often wait hours to do so.44 The waiting room becomes crowded and some visitors must wait in an outdoor courtyard without shade (except for one table umbrella).45 Visitors who do not remain in the visiting room or courtyard lose their place in line.46 One detainee said that visitors are denied free ingress and egress from the courtyard that abuts the waiting room during their wait.47 Another detainee indicated visitors are currently being denied access to the restrooms and drinking fountain.48

One detainee reported that due to terrible waiting conditions for visitors, including the preceding comments as well as lack of seating, and their mistreatment by guards, he has requested his family to no
longer visit him at the Facility.\textsuperscript{49} Another detainee similarly reported that his visitors (his wife and a female relative) were at times mistreated and insulted while waiting to see him; for example, guards made comments about the physical appearance of this wife.\textsuperscript{50}

Non-contact visits take place using a telephone system, and are often cut short because phone lines in the visiting rooms malfunction during visits.\textsuperscript{51}

B. Telephone Access

1. General Requirements

The Standards require that facilities provide detainees with reasonable and equitable access to telephones during established facility waking hours.\textsuperscript{52} In order to meet this requirement, facilities must provide at least one telephone for every twenty-five detainees.\textsuperscript{53} The Standards also require that telephone access rules be provided in writing to each detainee upon admittance, and that the rules be posted where detainees may easily see them.\textsuperscript{54}

The Facility appears substantially to meet this portion of the Standard, although telephone access is impaired by telephone malfunctions. Delegation members toured Unit J, a unit of the Facility for female detainees.\textsuperscript{55} Each housing unit has its own set of phones.\textsuperscript{56} Specifically, there are two banks of phones per pod, and each bank houses four phones.\textsuperscript{57} In Unit J, the number was approximately one phone per eleven detainees.\textsuperscript{58} Phone service is provided by Pacific Bell and Navigant.\textsuperscript{59} The telephones are accessible during open dayroom periods.\textsuperscript{60}

Generally, a few phones at a time do not work or malfunction, and the phones that work often have poor connections, making it difficult for detainees to hear or be heard.\textsuperscript{61} As a result, one detainee reported that
there is often a line to use the phones. Typically, detainees have to wait a few minutes to use the phones, although the wait at times may be up to two hours.

Telephone access in segregation units is more restricted. In such units, portable telephones are brought on wheeled platforms for sharing by Tier 1 and Tier 2 detainees on alternate days. The telephones are frequently out of order, effectively denying telephone access to detainees in segregation (see below, Special Management Unit).

The detainees are able to use the phones at the Facility to make free pre-programmed calls. However, since pre-programmed calls often do not go through, it is often easier for detainees to make phone calls using calling cards than it is for them to make free pre-programmed calls. Detainees may purchase and use prepaid calling cards at the Facility to make long distance telephone calls, however, they lose calling card credits as a result of calls frequently being disconnected.

Instructions regarding usage of the phones are posted near the phones. In Unit J, phone numbers of local consulates are posted on a large bulletin board, along with information on phone rates, instructions on how to call the Immigration Court Information Center, a list of pro bono legal service providers and a phone number to call in case of mistreatment or to lodge a complaint.

2. Direct Calls and Free Calls

The Standards allow facilities to generally restrict calls to collect calls; however, the facility must permit detainees to make direct calls to the local immigration court and the Board of Immigration Appeals, federal and local courts, consular officials, legal service providers, government offices, and to family members in case of emergency. The facility shall not require indigent detainees to pay for these types of calls if they are local, or for non-local calls if there is a compelling need. In addition, the facility

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Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 16, Section III.E.
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Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 16, Section III.E.
“shall enable all detainees to make calls to the [ICE]-provided list of free legal service providers and consulates at no charge to the detainee or the receiving party.”

It is unclear whether the Facility meets this section of the Standards. The information provided by Facility staff and in the Handbook regarding phone conversations with attorneys differs from the information that some of the detainees provided during the interviews. According to the Handbook, an inmate must request an unmonitored phone call with his or her attorney from a Counselor in advance. For detainees in the regular units, telephone calls with attorneys must be made from the telephone in the Counselor’s office. Detainees reported that requests to have private phone conversations in the Counselor’s office are often approved or denied arbitrarily by the unit manager in charge, particularly Unit Manager. On average, detainees wait five hours to call their attorneys after submitting requests to do so to the Facility.

The Standards suggest that the facility ensure privacy for detainees’ telephone calls regarding legal matters. The Handbook and Facility staff state that staff do not monitor detainees’ calls with their attorneys if such calls are not made through the regular inmate phones. Detainees reported that phone conversations with attorneys were monitored and/or recorded by Facility staff, whether they take place on regular inmate phones or in the Counselor’s office.

One detainee stated that he generally does not encounter problems when trying to contact his attorney by phone. Others reported that phone connections at the Facility are inconsistent, and that telephone calls are frequently dropped or disconnected. When detainees attempt to call out, they frequently receive recorded messages that all circuits are busy. These problems make it difficult for detainees to contact

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76 Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 16, Section III.E.
77 Notes of delegation member on conversations with detainee.
79 Notes of delegation member on conversations with detainees.
80 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee.
81 Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 16, Section J.
82 Handbook, p. 9; notes of delegation member.
83 Notes of delegation member on conversations with detainees.
84 Notes of delegation member on conversations with detainees.
85 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee.
86 Notes of delegation member on conversations with detainees.
87 Notes of delegation member on conversations with detainees.
88 Notes of delegation member on conversations with detainees.
their attorneys. Some detainees reported having been disconnected during telephone conversations with their attorneys. A detainee in the segregation unit reported that the telephone in his unit rarely works, and that the Facility has not been prompt in getting repairs done when necessary.

If the minutes on a detainee’s phone card are depleted while the detainee is having a telephone conversation with his or her attorney, the detainee may have to wait up to one week to call again, since detainees are permitted to purchase phone cards on one designated day per week.

3. Incoming Calls and Messages

The Standards suggest that facilities take and deliver messages from attorneys and emergency incoming telephone calls to detainees as promptly as possible. If the Facility receives an emergency telephone call for a detainee, the Standards suggest that the Facility obtain the caller’s name and number and permit the detainee to return the emergency call as soon as possible.

The facility meets this Standard. Facility staff informed us that they will take and deliver to the detainees messages from attorneys and messages regarding emergency phone calls as the calls are received and that detainees who request to return emergency phone calls are permitted to do so at no charge.

4. Telephone Privileges in Special Management Unit

The Standards provide that detainees in the Special Management Unit (“SMU”) for disciplinary reasons shall be permitted to make direct and/or free calls, except under compelling security conditions. Detainees in the SMU for other than disciplinary reasons shall have telephone access similar to that of detainees in the general population, but consistent with safety and security concerns in these units.

The facility does not appear to meet this Standard. The detainee in the segregation unit reported that the only telephone in the segregation unit rarely works and that repairs have not been made promptly.

C. Access to Library and Legal Material

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Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 16, Section III.I.
Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 16, Section III.I.
Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 16, Section III.G.
Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 16, Section III.G.
Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee
All facilities with detainees “shall permit detainees access to a law library, and provide legal materials, facilities, equipment and document copying privileges, and the opportunity to prepare legal documents.”

1. Library Access

The Standards suggest that each facility shall have a flexible schedule for law library use that permits all detainees, regardless of housing or classification, to use the law library on a regular basis. Additionally, each detainee shall be permitted to use the law library for a minimum of five hours per week.

**The Facility does not fully meet this section of the Standards; access for general population detainees as well as those in segregation is unduly limited.** Access time to the law library is inadequate. Detainees reported that they had to choose between recreation time and library time, although one detainee reported that he was able to participate in both. At one time, the library was closed to immigration detainees for over a month so that it could be used exclusively by U.S. Marshal inmates.

Facility staff stated that detainees in segregation units are permitted to visit the law library. According to the Handbook, detainees in segregation units may request legal materials from the library. However, the detainee who currently resides in the segregation unit reported that he does not have access to the law library, although he was told in August 2005 by an ICE official named that the policy would be changed to grant segregated detainees access to the law library. As of the date of our visit in December 2005, this detainee had not been permitted to visit the law library, in spite of multiple requests to do so. The detainee reported that he is permitted to request specific volumes from the library, but that delays in receiving the requested volumes impair his ability to adequately defend himself. Another detainee who had previously been placed in the segregation unit reported that while he was in the segregation unit the Facility did not permit him to use the law library.

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100 Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 1, Section I.
101 Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 1, Section III.G.
102 Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 1, Section III.G.
103 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee.
104 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee.
105 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee.
106 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee.
107 Notes of delegation member on conversion with Officer.
109 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee.
110 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee.
111 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee.
112 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee.
According to the Handbook, detainees in the general population units are permitted to use the law library for five hours per week and can request additional time, which is granted on a case-by-case basis with priority given to detainees who have impending court dates. The detainees whom we interviewed were aware that they are entitled to five hours in the library per week, but they stated that they are usually able to spend only three to three-and-one-half hours in the library per week—the time is cut short by the fifteen to twenty minutes it takes to get to the library and back to the units, and the time it takes to check disks in and out. One detainee said that the fifteen to twenty minutes “is like gold to us.”

One detainee who had gone on several hunger strikes reported that the Facility prevents detainees from accessing legal materials if they participate in hunger strikes.

2. Library Conditions

The Standards require that a facility provide a law library with sufficient space to facilitate detainees’ legal research and writing. Furthermore, it must be large enough “to provide reasonable access to all detainees who request its use. It shall contain a sufficient number of tables and chairs in a well-lit room, reasonably isolated from noisy areas.”

The Facility meets this section of the Standards. The Facility provides a law library that is sufficiently lit and well-isolated from noise and foot traffic. The law library contains fourteen chairs and several desks in addition to those for computer use.

3. Materials Identified in the Detention Standards

The Standards state that all facility law libraries should contain the materials listed in an attachment to the chapter on Access to Legal Materials, entitled “List of Legal Reference Materials for Detention Facilities.” These materials must be updated regularly, and information on significant regulatory and statutory changes regarding detention and deportation of aliens must be added in a timely manner. Damaged or stolen materials must be promptly replaced.

The Facility has not fully met this section of the Standards; materials are missing or outdated. Reference materials at the law library are outdated and incomplete, and legal materials and dictionaries
are frequently checked out by ICE staff.\textsuperscript{123} The following items from the List of Legal Reference Materials for Detention Facilities could not be found or were outdated at the time of our tour of the Facility’s library.\textsuperscript{124}

- \textit{Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis and Interpretation} – The volume contained in the library is from 1992, and at least one updated version exists

- \textit{Considerations for Asylum Officers Adjudicating Asylum Claims From Women} – Not available

- \textit{Immigration and Naturalization Service Basic Law Manual} – Not available

The detainees whom we interviewed were aware of the immigration law materials in the law library.\textsuperscript{125} At least two detainees reported that the immigration materials in the law library were out of date.\textsuperscript{126} When one detainee filed a grievance regarding the currency of the materials in the library, the Facility denied that the materials were out of date.\textsuperscript{127} Most library materials are not provided in a Spanish translation,\textsuperscript{128} although an English-to-Spanish dictionary is available in the library.\textsuperscript{129}

The Handbook and facility staff state that detainees can obtain materials that are not available in the law library by submitting a written request to the law librarian, who in turn submits the request to Officer \textsuperscript{130} This includes legal materials that are not on the Detention Standards list.\textsuperscript{131} Lexis CDs are available at the library, which are updated once every three months.\textsuperscript{132} It may take up to five months to update Lexis CDs, however.\textsuperscript{133} It is not uncommon for the Lexis CDs to be missing for weeks at a time.\textsuperscript{134} Detainees are not able to Shepardize cases with the available CDs.\textsuperscript{135} Research related to criminal convictions is not permitted,\textsuperscript{136} even in connection with issues related to immigration.\textsuperscript{137} Several
detainees reported that the Lexis CDs do not contain many of the cases that are cited against them during their proceedings.\(^{138}\)

4. Computer Access, Equipment and Holdings

The Standards require that facility law libraries provide an adequate number of typewriters and/or computers, writing implements, paper, and office supplies to enable detainees to prepare documents for legal proceedings.\(^{139}\)

**The Facility does not fully meet this section of the Standards.** The library provides access to five computers, three typewriters, a laser printer and a copier.\(^{140}\) The computers in the library are old and have viruses that corrupt the detainees’ disks,\(^{141}\) three of the computers are inoperative,\(^{142}\) and only one typewriter functions properly.\(^{143}\) Detainees reported that there are not enough computers and typewriters to accommodate the detainees.\(^{144}\) With regard to the computers, however, facility staff noted that they had purchased and were getting ready to install two new computers.\(^{145}\)

The Facility does not provide replacement disks to detainees whose computer disks have deteriorated over time, and detainees are not permitted to purchase new disks.\(^{146}\) The Facility stores the detainees’ disks in a property room that detainees cannot access.\(^{147}\) Files stored on the detainees’ disks are unprotected and not private.\(^{148}\) Files on detainees’ disks often become corrupted and unrecoverable.\(^{149}\) It is not

\(^{138}\) Notes of delegation member on conversations with detainees

\(^{139}\) Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 1, Section III.B.

\(^{140}\) Observations of delegation member

\(^{141}\) Notes of delegation member on conversations with detainees

\(^{142}\) Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee

\(^{143}\) Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee

\(^{144}\) Notes of delegation members on conversations with detainees

\(^{145}\) Notes of delegation members and on conversation with Officer

\(^{146}\) Notes of delegation member on conversations with detainee

\(^{147}\) Notes of delegation member on conversation with Officer

\(^{148}\) Notes of delegation member on conversation with law librarian

\(^{149}\) Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee
uncommon for files to be missing from detainees’ disks after being stored by the Facility for long periods of time.150

Detainees are permitted to print an unlimited number of pages.151 However, detainees may not directly print or copy documents; rather, they must ask the law librarian to do so.152 Since such requests are often made at the end of a detainee’s library session, it is common for the law librarian to not have enough time to print or copy all requested documents, and these materials are not set aside or delivered subsequently.153

One detainee in segregation reported that because he no longer has access to computers, typewriters or word processing equipment, he must hand write all pleadings.154

The law librarian has discretion whether to provide writing implements, paper and office supplies.155 Detainees must be indigent for thirty days before the Facility provides writing paper, writing implements, or envelopes to them free of charge.156 This is the case even if the detainee arrives at the Facility without any money, so the detainees must wait 30 days before they are able to obtain writing supplies.157

5. Assistance From Other Detainees

The Standards suggest that facilities shall permit detainees to assist other detainees in researching and preparing legal documents upon request, except when such assistance poses a security risk.158 Detainees are not permitted to charge a fee for assistance.159

The Facility meets this section of the Standards. Detainees may assist other detainees in researching and preparing legal documents.160 Some detainees, however, seek compensation for doing so.161

6. Photocopies
The Standards provide that each facility shall ensure that detainees can obtain photocopies of legal materials, when such copies are reasonable and necessary for legal proceedings involving the detainee.¹⁶² Enough copies must be provided so that a detainee can fulfill court procedural rules and retain a copy for his records.¹⁶³ Facility staff may not read a document that on its face is clearly related to a legal proceeding involving the detainee.¹⁶⁴

**The Facility does not fully meet this Standard.** There is no limit on the number of photocopies that a detainee can request,¹⁶⁵ and detainees may keep copies of legal documents with them.¹⁶⁶ Detainees are unable to make photocopies themselves; they must ask the librarian to copy documents for them.¹⁶⁷ Since such requests are often made at the end of a detainee’s library session, it is common for the law librarian to not have enough time to copy all requested documents.¹⁶⁸ The copy machine is often broken.¹⁶⁹ This frequent malfunctioning and the inability of detainees to copy materials themselves create unnecessary delays for detainees who wish to conduct legal research and writing.¹⁷⁰

D. Group Rights Presentations

The Standards provide that facilities holding ICE detainees “shall permit authorized persons to make presentations to groups of detainees for the purpose of informing them of U.S. immigration law and procedures, consistent with the security and orderly operation of the IGSA facility.”¹⁷¹ Informational posters are to be prominently displayed in the housing units at least forty-eight hours in advance of a scheduled presentation.¹⁷² While the presentations are open to all detainees, the facility “may limit the number of detainees at a single session.”¹⁷³ “The facility shall select and provide an environment

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¹⁶² Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 1, Section III.J.
¹⁶³ Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 1, Section III.J.
¹⁶⁴ Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 1, Section III.J.
¹⁶⁵ Notes of delegation member on conversations with detainees and.
¹⁶⁶ Notes of delegation member on conversations with detainees and.
¹⁶⁷ Notes of delegation member on conversations with detainees and.
¹⁶⁸ Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee.
¹⁶⁹ Notes of delegation member on conversations with detainees and.
¹⁷⁰ Notes of delegation member on conversations with detainees and.
¹⁷¹ Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 9, Section I.
¹⁷² Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 9, Section III.C.
¹⁷³ Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 9, Section III.C.
conducive to the presentation, consistent with security.”174 In addition, detainees shall have regular opportunities to view an “INS-approved videotaped presentation on legal rights.”175

**It is unclear whether the Facility meets this section of the Standards.** The Handbook states that “[e]ach weekday, ‘Refugee Rights: Know Your Rights’ is shown in all housing units in both English and Spanish.”176 Facility staff stated that upon intake, the “Know Your Rights” video created by the Florence Project is shown to each detainee and each detainee is given a copy of the Handbook.177 According to Facility staff, no detainee has requested to see the “Know Your Rights” video at a time other than upon intake.178 The detainees whom we interviewed had not heard of, nor seen, the “Know Your Rights” video.179

**IV. OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE ICE DETENTION STANDARDS**

**A. Correspondence and Other Mail**

The Standards require that detainees be allowed to send and receive correspondence in a timely manner, subject to limitations required for safety, security, and orderly operation of the facility.180 General correspondence shall normally be opened and inspected for contraband in the presence of the detainee, but may be opened and even read outside the presence of the detainee if security reasons exist for doing so.181 Special correspondence—which includes all written communication to or from attorneys, legal representatives, judges, courts, government officials, and the news media—is treated differently.182 Incoming special correspondence can be inspected for contraband only in the presence of the detainee, but it can never be read or copied.183 Outgoing special correspondence cannot be opened, inspected, or read.184 The Standards require that writing paper, writing implements, and envelopes be provided at no cost to detainees.185 The Standards also require that facilities provide indigent detainees with free envelopes and stamps for mail related to a legal matter, including correspondence to a legal...
representative, potential representative, or any court. Finally, the Standards state that facilities shall notify detainees of specific information regarding correspondence policies.

The Facility does not fully meet this section of the Standards; the Handbook does not include necessary information and writing materials and envelopes are not provided except to indigent detainees. The Facility provides all detainees with the Handbook. Handbooks are available in English and Spanish, but not in other languages. The Handbook includes information regarding:

1) the definition of “special correspondence,” including instructions on the proper labeling for special correspondence;

2) a statement that it is the detainee’s responsibility to inform senders of special mail of the labeling requirement;

3) instructions on sending mail and packages;

4) instructions on receiving mail and packages; and

5) instructions concerning the manner in which indigent detainees may obtain writing implements, paper, envelopes, and postage.

The Handbook does not provide the following information:

1) a description of mail that may be rejected by the facility, including identity documents such as passports and birth certificates;

2) instructions about how non-indigent detainees may obtain writing implements, paper, and envelopes; and

3) the procedure for purchasing postage (if any).

By failing to provide information regarding the foregoing matters, the Facility does not meet the notification requirements of this section of the Standards.

Detainees must be indigent in order for the Facility to supply writing paper, writing implements, or envelopes at no cost to the detainees. Detainees often must barter with each other to get such supplies.

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186 Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 3, Section III.B. & E.
187 Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 3, Section III.B.
188 Notes of delegation member on conversation with Officer
189 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee
191 Notes of delegation member see Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 3, Section III.B.
192 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee
as envelopes and stamps. One detainee reported that he has been limited to five envelopes per week and that only $0.37 stamps are available. Detainees who are declared indigent are not always given free envelopes and stamps.

B. Recreation

The Standards suggest that all detainees have access to recreation “under conditions of security and safety.” Detainees should be housed in facilities with outdoor recreation. If a facility only provides indoor recreation, detainees must have access for at least one hour per day, including exposure to natural light. Detainees should have access to “fixed and movable equipment,” including opportunities for cardiovascular exercise, and games and television in dayrooms. Under no circumstances will a facility require detainees to forego law library privileges for recreation privileges.

It is unclear whether the Facility meets this section of the Standards; detainees reported having to forego recreation in order to use the law library. The Handbook provides that detainees are permitted recreation time indoors and outdoors, including one hour of recreation per day in an outside recreation yard. However, information on recreation found in the Handbook and provided by Facility staff differs from the information that some of the detainees shared with members of our delegation during the interviews. For instance, Facility staff indicated that detainees are not required to relinquish their outdoor recreation time in order to visit the law library. Detainees reported that the library visit is scheduled simultaneously with scheduled outdoor recreation time; as a result, they must relinquish their outdoor recreation if they choose to visit the law library.

There are sixty-eight people per enclosure at any given outdoor recreation session. Detainees may choose either a morning recreation session or an afternoon recreation session, although the afternoon recreation sessions last only up to twenty minutes.

193 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee
194 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee
195 Notes of delegation member on conversations with detainees
196 Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 13, Section I.
197 Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 13, Section II.A.
198 Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 13, Section II.B.
199 Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 13, Section III.A.
200 Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 13, Section III.B.
202 Notes of delegation member on conversation with Officer
203 Notes of delegation member on conversations with detainees
204 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee
205 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee
Each of the housing units also has a dayroom.206 Dayrooms are common rooms for the detainees where they are able to socialize, watch television, and play table games.207 The Handbook states that movies are shown on weekends.208 Delegation members observed that in the unit that the delegation visited, each detainee had access to natural sunlight in the dayroom.209 The delegation observed that the outdoor yards and dayroom provide very limited equipment for muscular or cardiovascular exercise: just basketball hoops.210 Outside recreation is limited to playing basketball, doing chin-ups or pull-ups or walking.211

C. Access to Medical Care212

The Standards require that all detainees have access to medical services that promote detainee health and general well-being.213 Each facility is required to have regularly scheduled times, known as “sick call,” when medical staff are available to see detainees who have requested medical services.214 For a facility of over 200 detainees, a minimum of five days per week is suggested.215 Facilities must also have procedures in place to provide emergency medical care for detainees who require it.216 With respect to emergency care, the Standards state that in a situation in which a detention officer is uncertain whether a detainee requires emergency medical care, the officer should immediately contact a health care provider or an on-duty supervisor.217 If a detainee is diagnosed as having a medical condition, including a psychiatric condition, requiring special attention (e.g., special diet), the medical care provider is required to notify the OIC in writing.218

It is unclear whether the Facility fully meets this Standard; although resources are available, detainees reported problems with medical care. The U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) has forty-two staff members consisting of doctors, nurse practitioners, physician’s assistants, a dentist, an endocrinologist, a psychiatrist, a psychologist and one psychiatric technician.219 PHS provides staffing

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207 Observation of delegation member
209 Observation of delegation member
210 Observation of delegation member
211 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee
212 ICE staff and Officer conducted the tour of the medical, dental and psychiatric clinic areas of the Facility.
213 Detention Operations Manual, Health Services, Standard 2, Section I.
215 Detention Operations Manual, Health Services, Standard 2, Section I.
216 Detention Operations Manual, Health Services, Standard 2, Section III.A, D. & G.
217 Detention Operations Manual, Health Services, Standard 2, Section III.H.
218 Detention Operations Manual, Health Services, Standard 2, Section III.J.
219 Notes of delegation members and on conversation with Officer
and general medical care five days a week, and emergency and critical care seven days a week.\textsuperscript{220} The Facility can provide outpatient psychological services and inpatient psychiatric services.\textsuperscript{221} 

All detainees at the Facility are screened for medical and dental issues upon their initial processing, which includes a chest x-ray and a physical exam.\textsuperscript{222} At that time, each detainee is questioned/screened regarding prior health history, current health, medical history, suicide risk, mental health, drug and/or alcohol dependence, tuberculosis, dental health, and STD/communicable diseases.\textsuperscript{223} An unhealthy individual is referred to a doctor or nurse practitioner for a physical examination within twenty-four hours of intake, while healthy individuals are given a physical examination within thirty days of intake.\textsuperscript{224} The Facility has negative pressure rooms to house and provide treatment to detainees who are tested positive for tuberculosis.\textsuperscript{225} According to one detainee, it is common for detainees who have been diagnosed with active tuberculosis to be mixed in with the general population.\textsuperscript{226} 

The Facility does not have regular “sick calls,” as suggested in the Standards.\textsuperscript{227} In order to see a nurse or doctor for non-emergency care, a detainee must submit a “Sick Call Request Form,” which is a one-page form that is available in each unit.\textsuperscript{228} Officer stated that emergency medical care is provided within four minutes of the Facility staff reporting the emergency to medical staff,\textsuperscript{229} and that detainees are informed of these procedures during intake.\textsuperscript{220} Facility staff also stated that the Facility has a policy that detainees must be seen within three days of submitting a Sick Call Request Form.\textsuperscript{231} Nearly all detainees reported that their medical needs had not been attended to in such a time frame, stating that at times it takes as long as three weeks to receive health care after submitting a Sick Call Request Form.\textsuperscript{232}
One detainee reported that it may take up to three days to get emergency medical care. This detainee also reported that non-English speaking detainees are not given translations of medication instructions.

Another detainee reported that when he requested medical attention for a rash, he was given only a document that listed helpful hints to relieve the rash, which included directions to use specific soaps and lotions; however, when he requested to receive such soaps and lotions, his request was denied.

Another detainee reported that he did not get proper medical care after he had a heart attack and underwent surgery and that he was not given enough time to fully recuperate and allow his incisions to heal before being sent back to his unit. The same detainee reported that following his heart attack, the Facility did not provide the special diet that was prescribed by his doctor. He also reported that he had tuberculosis for months before the medical staff at the Facility properly diagnosed it. This detainee was visibly very sick, his skin tone was very wan, he was shaky, and he appeared to be exhausted. The detainee believes that the Facility is just waiting for him to die, and that the Facility is withholding proper medical attention at his peril.

Another detainee stated that he had submitted a request for medical care on a Monday morning for flu and bronchitis symptoms and was not seen until the following Friday afternoon. The same detainee reported that he once requested some aspirin and was placed in a holding cell in the medical unit from 5:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. before he received the requested aspirin.

### D. Access to Dental Care

The Standards suggest that detainees have an initial dental screening exam within fourteen days of the detainee’s arrival, and require the facility to provide a number of services, including emergency dental treatment and repair of prosthetic appliances. For detainees who are held in detention for over six months, routine dental treatment may be provided, including amalgam and composite restorations, prophylaxis, root canals, extractions, x-rays, the repair and adjustment of prosthetic appliances and other procedures required to maintain the detainee’s health.
The Facility does not appear fully to meet this section of the Standards; detainees reported problems with the prescribed dental care. There is an on-site dentist at the Facility, and detainees receive an initial dental screening. If dental care is needed, the on-site dentist provides dental care in the Facility.

One detainee who is missing teeth said the Facility does not provide partial dentures, and said that he has filed grievances indicating he is unable to chew his food. Another detainee whom we interviewed stated that when he once requested dental care for a filling, the dentist removed his tooth, and the dentist explained that he wanted to remove the detainee’s remaining teeth as a preventive measure. Another detainee reported that the dentist at the Facility consistently recommends that his teeth be pulled instead of repairing decay through fillings, caps, bridges or crowns.

E. Detainee Classification

The Standards require that detention facilities use a classification system and physically separate detainees in different categories. A detainee’s classification is to be determined on “objective” criteria, including criminal offenses, escape attempts, institutional disciplinary history, violent incidents, etc. Opinions, unconfirmed and unverified information, and physical characteristics and appearance are not to be taken into account. Classification is required in order to separate detainees without criminal records or with minimal criminal records from inmates with serious criminal records.

Additionally, all facility classification systems shall allow classification levels to be re-determined and include procedures by which new arrivals can appeal their classification levels. Finally, the detainee Handbook’s section on classification must include (1) an explanation of the classification levels, with the conditions and restrictions applicable to each, and (2) the procedures by which a detainee may appeal his classification.

The Facility does not fully meet this section of the Standards; classifications are not explained in the Handbook, and detainees report improper commingling of violent detainees. The Handbook identifies the classification levels, but does not include an explanation of conditions or restrictions applicable to the three classification levels. Further, it is unclear how detainees are classified. According

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244 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee
245 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee
246 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee
247 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee
248 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee
249 Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 4, Section I.
250 Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 4, Section III.D.
251 Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 4, Section III.D.
252 Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 4, Sections III.A. & III.E.
253 Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 4, Sections III.G & III.H.
254 Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 4, Section III.I.
to the detainees interviewed, non-criminal detainees are commingled with criminal inmates, violent with nonviolent, and mentally ill with the general population. One detainee stated that detainees who had committed violent crimes had been classified as “Level 1,” which is the “Lowest Threat” classification, while he was classified as “Level 3,” or “Highest Threat,” even though he had not committed a violent offense and had not engaged in violent or aggressive activity while in detention that might warrant such a classification. This detainee believed that he was being punished for having filed so many grievances.

F. Detainee Grievance Procedures

The Standards require that every facility develop and implement standard procedures for handling detainee grievances and encourage that the facility initially seek to resolve grievances informally before having to engage in a more formalized procedure. The Standards also require that each facility establish a reasonable time limit for: (1) “processing, investigating, and responding to grievances;” (2) “convening a grievance committee to review formal complaints;” and (3) “providing written responses to detainees who filed formal grievances, including the basis for the decision.” All grievances must receive supervisory review, include guarantees against reprisal, and allow for appeals.

The Facility does not meet this section of the Standards. According to detainees interviewed, there are several problems with the process, including: filing grievances is discouraged and is met with retaliation; detainees must sign off on the grievance resolution in advance; responses to grievances may take months and are sometimes delivered to the wrong detainee. Most of the detainees whom we interviewed had filed many grievances. The detainees who filed grievances reported that their grievances had not been addressed in a timely manner, with wait times of usually three weeks to receive a response from the Facility. One detainee who has filed numerous grievances with the Facility reported that it now takes on average five to six months before the Facility provides a response to his grievances.
The detainees also reported that they were required to sign grievance forms indicating that the issues had been resolved prior to there being a satisfactory resolution.267 Specifically, a detainee who wishes to file a grievance must sign the CCA Inmate/Resident Grievance Form (the “Grievance Form”)268 before the detainee places it in the grievance box.269 Since resolutions to grievances are detailed on these same Grievance Forms, this creates the appearance that the subsequent resolutions on the Grievance Forms are acceptable to the detainees, whether or not this is the case.270 Accordingly, the detainees expressed great dissatisfaction and mistrust regarding the grievance resolution process.271 Also, it is not uncommon for detainees to receive responses from the Facility to grievances filed by other detainees.272

There are no postings regarding the right to file a grievance in housing units A-A or A-D.273 One detainee reported that filing a grievance is discouraged.274 Another detainee said detainees have observed that Facility staff look unfavorably on those who file grievances.275 Two detainees reported that Facility staff have retaliated against them for submitting grievance forms, sometimes by sending them to segregation units for periods of up to 48 hours.276 Two other detainees indicated that other detainees who had filed numerous grievances have been retaliated against by, among other means, being put in the “hole,” strip searched, denied meals, criticized, and degraded.277

G. Religious Practices

The Detention Standards require that detainees of different religious beliefs be provided with reasonable and equitable opportunities to participate in the practices of their respective faiths.278 According to the

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267 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee
268 See form of CCA Inmate/Resident Grievance Form (i.e., Form 14-5A) at Attachment C. The form includes two places for a detainee’s signature: once under “Requested Action,” and again under “Grievance Officer’s Decision.”
269 Notes of delegation member on conversations with detainees and
270 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee
271 Notes of delegation members and on conversation with detainees
272 Notes of delegation members and on conversation with detainee
273 Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee
274 Notes of delegation members and on conversation with detainee
275 Notes of delegation members and on conversation with detainee
276 Notes of delegation member on conversations with detainees and
277 Notes of delegation members and on conversation with detainees
278 Detention Operations Manual, Detainee Services, Standard 14, Section I.

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Standards, these “opportunities will exist for all equally, regardless of the number of practitioners of a given religion, whether the religion is ‘mainstream,’ whether the religion is ‘Western’ or ‘Eastern,’ or other such factors. Opportunities will be constrained only by concerns about safety, security, the orderly operation of the facility, or extraordinary costs associated with a specific practice.” 279 Moreover, a facility’s staff shall make “all reasonable efforts to accommodate” special food services required by a detainee’s particular religion. 280 Detainees in confinement must also be permitted to participate in religious practices, consistent with the safety, security, and orderly operation of the facility. 281

**The Facility does not fully meet this section of the Standards.** There are no organized religious services at the Facility, and no groups visit the Facility to provide spiritual counseling or services. 282 One Jewish detainee reported that there is no rabbi available for Jewish detainees, and that although he has requested and been promised kosher meals, he has never received a kosher meal, including on Jewish holidays. 283

**H. Voluntary Work Program**

The Standards suggest that all facilities with work programs provide an opportunity for physically and mentally capable detainees to “work and earn money.” 284 Participation must be voluntary, and detainees may not work more than eight hours per day, and forty hours per week. 285

**It is unclear whether the Standards have been met at the Facility.** The Handbook states that detainees may volunteer to be part of the work program, to work up to “seven (8) hours per day, or thirty-five (40) hours weekly.” 286 One detainee who is a welder by trade reported that he has repeatedly requested to be assigned to meaningful work (such as running electrical lines, general maintenance and repair, etc.) in order to at least “feel useful.” 287 Although the Facility once assigned this detainee to the kitchen, the Facility no longer provides work opportunities to him. 288

**I. Special Management Unit**
The Standards suggest that each facility establish a Special Management Unit ("SMU") that will isolate certain detainees from the general population.\(^{289}\) A detainee may be placed in disciplinary segregation only by order of the Institutional Disciplinary Committee, after a hearing in which the detainee has been found to have committed a prohibited act.\(^ {290}\) The disciplinary committee may order placement in disciplinary segregation only when alternative dispositions would inadequately regulate the detainee’s behavior.\(^ {291}\)

All cells in the SMU must be equipped with beds which are securely fastened to the cell floor or wall.\(^ {292}\) Segregated detainees shall have the opportunity to maintain a normal level of personal hygiene.\(^ {293}\) Recreation shall be provided to detainees in disciplinary segregation in accordance with the “Recreation” standard.\(^ {294}\) Access to legal material shall remain open and requests for access shall be accommodated no more than twenty-four hours after receipt of the initial detainee request.\(^ {295}\) Similarly, access to the law library shall be granted to detainees in segregation, and access by request only is an option.\(^ {296}\) “As a rule, a detainee retains visiting privileges while in disciplinary segregation.”\(^ {297}\) Also, a detainee in disciplinary segregation shall not be denied legal visitation.\(^ {298}\)

In accordance with the “Telephone Access” standard, detainees in disciplinary segregation shall be restricted to telephone calls for calls relating to the detainee’s immigration case or other matters, calls to consular/embassy officials, and family emergencies.\(^ {299}\) Also, detainees in segregation shall have the same correspondence privileges as detainees in the general population.\(^ {300}\)

**The Facility does not fully meet this section of the Standards.** Detainees in segregation are allowed reading materials and may request materials from the law library, but are not given access to the law library.\(^ {301}\) Although Facility staff stated that detainees in segregation have access to telephones,\(^ {302}\) because the telephones used are frequently out of order, detainees in segregation are effectively denied telephone privileges.\(^ {303}\)

\(^{289}\) Detention Operations Manual, Security and Control, Standard 14, Section I.
\(^{290}\) Detention Operations Manual, Security and Control, Standard 14, Section III.A.
\(^{291}\) Detention Operations Manual, Security and Control, Standard 14, Section III.A.
\(^{293}\) Detention Operations Manual, Security and Control, Standard 14, Section III.D.11.
\(^{296}\) Detention Operations Manual, Security and Control, Standard 14, Section III.D.15.e.
\(^{300}\) Detention Operations Manual, Security and Control, Standard 14, Section III.D.19.
\(^{301}\) Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee
\(^{302}\) Notes of delegation member on conversation with Officer
\(^{303}\) Notes of delegation member on conversation with detainee
The Facility has partially implemented these Standards. Detainees in segregation are allowed to receive and send mail. They are also allowed to visit with clergy, counselors, and attorneys.

J. Detainee Transfers and Transportation

When transferring a detainee, the Standards require ICE to take into consideration whether a detainee is represented before the immigration court, as well as the location of the attorney and the court. The Standards require ICE to notify a detainee’s legal representative of record that the detainee is being transferred. Indigent detainees will be permitted to make a single domestic telephone call at government expense upon arrival at their final destination; non-indigent detainees will be permitted to make telephone calls at their own expense. Records including the detainee’s Alien File (“A-file”) and health records (or transfer summary for IGSAs) must accompany the detainee. Prior to transfer, medical staff must provide the transporting officers with instructions and any applicable medications for the detainee’s care; medications must be turned over to an officer at the receiving field office. A detainee’s legal materials, cash, and small valuables shall always accompany the detainee to the receiving facility; larger items may be shipped. Detainees are to be provided meals during any transfer that exceeds six hours.

The Facility does not fully meet this section of the Standards. Facility staff stated that detainees are not transferred out of the Facility; rather, all ICE detainees in the Western part of the U.S. are transferred to the Facility when contesting their immigration cases. We were informed, however, that on December 21, 2005, a detainee whom we interviewed was transferred back to the El Centro SPC. When this detainee was originally transferred to the Facility in June 2005, he was prevented from bringing with him six of seven boxes that contained his legal documents.
With respect to transferring detainees to and from courthouses, the Facility wakes detainees between 1:00 a.m. and 3:00 a.m. and puts them into holding cells. The detainees are then driven to the courthouse at 5:30 a.m. and put into holding cells at the courthouse. Although some cases are heard at 8:00 a.m., others are not heard until 4:00 p.m. Food is not provided to the detainees while they are in the holding cells. The lack of sleep and food causes the detainees to be exhausted during their hearings.

V. CONCLUSION

The San Diego Detention Facility meets many provisions of the Standards, but also fails to meet a number of them.

To facilitate legal visitation, the Facility should take steps to ensure that visits between attorneys and their detainee-clients are private and not interrupted. Further, the Facility should allow, rather than discourage, legal visits to proceed through meal times and should provide detainees with missed meals afterwards.

To provide adequate telephone access to detainees, the Facility should not record or monitor, in any matter whatsoever, legal phone calls (absent a court order). Any telephones that are not working should be repaired, including those in the segregation unit. In addition, it should be clarified to Facility staff and detainees that the Standards do not allow restrictions on the number of calls a detainee places to his or her legal representative.

To support the detainees’ access to legal materials and legal representation, the Facility should continue to provide detainees with sufficient paper, envelopes, and stamps to meet their legal needs and allow detainees to type and print submissions to the court using a computer and/or typewriter. The Facility should also provide access to the law library for detainees in segregation units. The Facility should provide access to all of the legal materials listed in the Detention Standards in their law library. Equipment in the library, including computers and typewriters, should be checked regularly and repaired to ensure that all equipment is functioning properly. In order to fully provide legal access for all detainees, detainees in segregation should be given access to the law library and to a working telephone for legal calls. Lastly, a system should be implemented such that photocopies and printing requested by detainees are delivered to them in the event that the law librarian does not have time to meet the request during a detainee’s library session.
Regarding Group Rights Presentations, one way to address concerns that detainees are not familiar with the “Know Your Rights” video is to ensure that “Know Your Rights” or another INS-approved videotaped presentation is shown at regular intervals with detainees having the choice to view the presentation, rather than just showing such a presentation at intake.

Regarding correspondence and other mail, the Handbook should be updated to include the information currently not provided, including the Facility policy on identity documents, instructions for non-indigent access to office supplies, and an explanation of any procedure for purchasing postage.

In order to meet Recreation Standards, library visits must not be scheduled simultaneously with scheduled outdoor recreation time. In addition, fixed and movable equipment should be added to allow opportunities for cardiovascular exercise.

To support Standards-required access to medical care, the Facility should implement regular sick calls to replace the Sick Call Request Form system currently in place so that detainees’ medical needs can be attended to in a timely manner. Non-English speaking detainees should be given translation of medication instructions.

The facility should address problems with detainee classification procedures.

Grievance procedures should also be addressed, to resolve the issue of having detainees sign off on resolutions to grievances in advance. Moreover, Facility staff practices should be further assessed to determine the extent of any retaliatory measures taken against detainees submitting Grievance Forms. Detainees must not be subject to retaliatory measures taken against detainees submitting Grievance Forms.

Measures should be taken to ensure that the Facility provides detainees with reasonable and equitable opportunities to participate in religious practices. The Facility should also meet detainee requests to work and earn money.
**ICE Standard**

1. Standard 17, Visitation
   - I. To maintain detainee morale and family relationships, INS encourages visits from family and friends.
   - III.G The facility’s visiting area shall be appropriately furnished and arranged, and as comfortable and pleasant as practicable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Delegation Observation</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>ICE Response</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Detainee reported that due to terrible waiting conditions for visitors, including lack of access to restrooms, lack of seating, and mistreatment by guards, he has requested his family to no longer visit. (p.5 ¶4 – p.6 ¶1)</td>
<td>Detainee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detainees complained that it “takes too long to get people in,” and that visitors often wait hours to do so. The waiting room becomes crowded and some visitors must wait in an outdoor courtyard without shade. (p.5 ¶3)</td>
<td>Detainees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detainee reported that his visitors (his wife and a female relative) were at times mistreated and insulted while waiting to see him. Guards made comments about the physical appearance of his wife. (p.6 ¶1)</td>
<td>Detainee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-contact visits take place using a telephone system, and are often cut short because phone lines in the visiting rooms malfunction during visits. (p.6 ¶2)</td>
<td>Detainees and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Standard 17, Visitation [Legal]
   - III.I. [E]ach detainee may meet privately with current or prospective legal representatives and their legal assistants.
   - III.1.2. … On regular business days, legal visitations may proceed through a scheduled meal period. In such cases, the detainee shall receive a tray or sack meal after the visit.
   - III.1.10. Documents or other written material may be provided to a detainee during a visit with a legal representative shall be inspected, but not read. Detainees are entitled to retain legal material received for their personal use.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Delegation Observation</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>ICE Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conversations that take place in the interview rooms may be overheard from outside because doors have approximately 1 – 1¾&quot; clearances between the door and the floor. (p.3 ¶3)</td>
<td>Detainee</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Frequent interruptions by Assistant Wardens may cause visits to be cut short. (p.4 ¶1)</td>
<td>Detainee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detainees reported that the kitchen will not provide a regular meal to a detainee whose meeting continues through a meal; however, Facility staff reported that meals are provided. (p.4 ¶2)</td>
<td>Detainees and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a detainee is visiting with an attorney during mealtime, recreation time, or law library time, the detainee must choose between either the meal/recreation/law library time or the attorney visit. If the detainee chooses the attorney visit, no makeup meal or recreation or law library time is provided. (p.4 ¶2)</td>
<td>Detainees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During post-visit searches, guards sometimes take detainees’ legal papers. (p.4 ¶3)</td>
<td>Detainees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Standard 16, Telephone Access

#### I. Facilities holding INS detainees shall permit them to have reasonable and equitable access to telephones.

#### III.A. The facility shall provide detainees with reasonable access to telephones during established facility waking hours.

#### III.G Staff shall permit detainees in the Special Management Unit for disciplinary reasons to make direct and/or free calls…. Staff shall permit detainees in Special Management Unit for other than disciplinary reasons…to have telephone access similar to detainees in the general population ….

#### III.J. The facility shall ensure privacy for detainees’ telephone calls regarding legal matters. For this purpose, the facility shall provide a reasonable number of telephones on which detainees can make such calls without being overheard by officers, other staff or other detainees. Facility staff shall not electronically monitor detainee telephone calls on their legal matters, absent a court order.

- Phones malfunction, telephone calls are frequently disconnected, and phones often have poor connections, making it difficult for detainees to hear or be heard. When detainees attempt to call out, they frequently receive recorded messages that all circuits are busy. These problems make it difficult for detainees to contact their attorneys. (pp.6 ¶5, 8 ¶4)
- If the minutes on a detainee’s phone card are depleted while the detainee is having a telephone conversation with his or her attorney, the detainee may have to wait up to one week to call again, since detainees are permitted to purchase phone cards on one designated day per week. (p.9 ¶2)
- Telephone access in segregation units is restricted. Portable telephones brought in are frequently out of order, and repairs are not made promptly, effectively denying telephone access. (pp.7 ¶2, 9 ¶¶1, 6)
- Detainees are able to use the phones at the Facility to make free pre-programmed calls, but the calls often do not go through, so detainees must make the calls using calling cards. Detainees lose calling card credits as a result of calls frequently being disconnected. (p.7 ¶3)
- For detainees in the regular units, telephone calls with attorneys must be made from the telephone in the Counselor’s office. Detainees reported that requests to have private phone conversation in the Counselor’s office are often denied arbitrarily by the unit manager in charge, particularly Unit Manager … (p.8 ¶2)
- Detainees reported that phone conversations with attorneys were monitored and/or recorded by Facility staff, whether they take place on regular inmate phones or in the Counselor’s office. (p.8 ¶3)
5. **Standard 1, Access to Legal Material**
   - **III.B. Equipment.** The law library shall provide an adequate number of typewriters and/or computers, writing implements, paper and office supplies to enable detainees to prepare documents for legal proceedings.
   - The library provides access to five computers, three typewriters, a laser printer and a copier. The computers in the library are old and have viruses that corrupt the detainees’ disks. Detainees reported that there are not enough computers and typewriters to accommodate the detainees. However, the Facility has purchased two new computers. (p.13 ¶3, 4)
   - The Facility does not provide replacement disks to detainees whose computer disks have deteriorated over time, and detainees are not permitted to purchase new disks. The Facility stores the detainees’ disks in a property room that detainees cannot access. Files stored on the detainees’ disks are unprotected and not private, and often become corrupted and unrecoverable. It is not uncommon for files to be missing from detainees’ disks after being stored by the Facility for long periods of time. (p.13 ¶4)
   - A detainee in segregation reported that because he no longer has access to computers, typewriters or word processing equipment, he must hand write all pleadings. (p.14 ¶3)
   - The law librarian has discretion whether to provide writing implements, paper and office supplies. Detainees must be indigent for 30 days before the Facility provides writing paper, writing implements, or envelopes to them free of charge. Those who arrive at the Facility without any money must wait 30 days before they are able to obtain writing supplies. (p.14 ¶4)

6. **Standard 1, Access to Legal Material**
   - **III.C.** The law library shall contain the materials listed in Attachment A.
   - The following items could not be found or were outdated: 
     - *Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis and Interpretation* -- outdated; 
     - *Considerations for Asylum Officers Adjudicating Asylum Claims From Women* -- Not available; 
     - *Immigration and Naturalization Service Basic Law Manual* -- Not available. (p.12 ¶1)
   - Detainees reported that the immigration materials in the law library were out of date. When one detainee filed a grievance regarding the currency of the materials in the library, the Facility denied that the materials were out of date. (p.12 ¶2)
   - Lexis CDs are available at the library, which are updated once every three to five months. It is not uncommon for Lexis CDs to be missing for weeks at a time. Detainees are not able to Shepardize cases with the available CDs. Research related to criminal convictions is not permitted, even in connection with issues related to immigration. Several detainees reported that the Lexis CDs do not contain many of the cases cited against them during their proceedings. (p.12 ¶3)

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Delegation observations; detainees and officer. Detainees and officer; Law Librarian. Delegation observations.

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7. Standard 1, Access to Legal Material
   - III.G. The facility shall...permit all detainees, regardless of housing or classification, to use the law library on a regular basis. Each detainee shall be permitted to use the law library for a minimum of five (5) hours per week. Detainees may not be forced to forgo their minimal recreation time, as provided in “Detainee Recreation,” standard to use the law library.
   - III.M. Detainees housed in ... Segregation units shall have the same law library access as the general population, unless compelling security concerns require limitations.

8. Standard 1, Access to Legal Material
   - III.J. The facility shall ensure that detainees can obtain copies of legal material ....

9. Standard 1, Access to Legal Material
   - III.K. The facility shall permit detainees to assist other detainees in researching and preparing legal documents upon request .... Such assistance is voluntary; no detainee shall be allowed to charge a fee or accept anything of value for assistance.

- Detainees reported that they had to choose between recreation time and library time. (p.10 ¶3)
- Previously the library had been closed to immigration detainees for over a month so that it could be used exclusively by U.S. Marshal inmates. (p.10 ¶3)
- A detainee in the segregation unit reported that he does not have access to the law library, despite multiple requests. This detainee reported that he is permitted to request specific volumes from the library, but that delays in receiving them impair his ability to adequately defend himself. Another detainee who had previously been placed in the segregation unit reported that while he was in the segregation unit the Facility did not permit him to use the law library (pp.10 ¶4, 26 ¶4)
- The detainees were aware that they are entitled to five hours in the library per week, but they stated that they are usually able to spend only three to three-and-one-half hours in the library per week—the time is cut short by the fifteen to twenty minutes it takes to get to the library and back to the units, and the time it takes to check disks in and out. (p.11 ¶1)
- A detainee who had gone on several hunger strikes reported that the Facility prevents detainees from accessing legal materials if they participate in hunger strikes. (p.11 ¶2)
- Detainees are unable to print documents or make photocopies themselves; they must ask the librarian to copy documents for them. Since such requests are often made at the end of a detainee’s library session, it is common for the law librarian to not have enough time to copy all requested documents. (pp.14 ¶2, 15 ¶2)
- The copy machine is often broken. This combined with the inability of detainees to copy materials themselves create unnecessary delays for detainees in their legal research and writing. (p.15 ¶2)

- Detainees may assist other detainees in researching and preparing legal documents. Some detainees, however, seek compensation for doing so. (p.14 ¶6)
| 10. Standard 9, Group Presentations on Legal Rights | The Handbook states that “[e]ach weekday, ‘Refugee Rights: Know Your Rights’ is shown in all housing units ….” Facility staff stated that upon intake, the “Know Your Rights” video created by the Florence Project is shown to each detainee and each detainee is given a copy of the Handbook. According to Facility staff, no detainee has requested to see the “Know Your Rights” video at a time other than upon intake. (p.16 ¶2) | Officer | Detainee Handbook |
| III.I. Videotaped presentations. The facility shall play INS-approved videotaped presentations on legal rights, at the request of outside organizations. … The facility shall provide regular opportunities for detainees in the general population to view the videotape. | Detainees had not heard of, nor seen, the “Know Your Rights” video. (p.16 ¶2) | Delegation observations |

<p>| 11. Standard 3, Correspondence and Other Mail | The Handbook does not provide the following information: | Detainees |
| III.B. The facility shall notify detainees of its policy in correspondence and other mail through the detainee handbook or equivalent … [and] shall specify: 7. A description of mail which may be rejected by the facility … 8. How to obtain writing implements, paper, and envelopes; and 9. The procedure for purchasing postage (if any), and the rules for providing indigent and certain other detainees free postage …. | 1) A description of mail that may be rejected by the facility, including identity documents such as passports and birth certificates; 2) Instructions about how non-indigent detainees may obtain writing implements, paper, and envelopes; and 3) The procedure for purchasing postage (if any). (p.17 ¶3) |
| Detainees had not heard of, nor seen, the “Know Your Rights” video. (p.16 ¶2) | 1) A description of mail that may be rejected by the facility, including identity documents such as passports and birth certificates; 2) Instructions about how non-indigent detainees may obtain writing implements, paper, and envelopes; and 3) The procedure for purchasing postage (if any). (p.17 ¶3) |
| 12. Standard 3, Correspondence and Other Mail | Detainees must be indigent in order for the Facility to supply writing paper, writing implements, or envelopes at no cost to the detainees. (pp.14 ¶4, 17 ¶5) | Detainees |
| III.I. Postage Allowance. Indigent detainees will be permitted to mail a reasonable amount of mail each week, including at least five pieces of special correspondence and three pieces of general correspondence. | Detainees often must barter with each other to get such supplies as envelopes and stamps. One detainee reported that he has been limited to five envelopes per week and that only $0.37 stamps are available. Detainees who are declared indigent are not always given free envelopes and stamps. (p.17 ¶5) | 1) A description of mail that may be rejected by the facility, including identity documents such as passports and birth certificates; 2) Instructions about how non-indigent detainees may obtain writing implements, paper, and envelopes; and 3) The procedure for purchasing postage (if any). (p.17 ¶3) |</p>
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<th>13. Standard 13, Recreation</th>
<th>Facility staff indicated that detainees are not required to relinquish their outdoor recreation time in order to visit the law library. However, detainees reported that the library visit is scheduled simultaneously with scheduled outdoor recreation time. (p.18 ¶3)</th>
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<td>III.B.1. If outdoor recreation is available at the facility, each detainee shall have access for at least one hour daily, at a reasonable time of day, five days a week, weather permitting.</td>
<td>Detainees may choose either a morning recreation session or an afternoon recreation session, although the afternoon recreation sessions last only up to twenty minutes. (p.18 ¶4)</td>
<td>Detainees may choose either a morning recreation session or an afternoon recreation session, although the afternoon recreation sessions last only up to twenty minutes. (p.18 ¶4)</td>
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<td>III.B.2. If only indoor recreation is available, detainees shall have access for at least one hour each day and shall have access to natural light.</td>
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14. Health Services Standard 2, Medical Care
   • I. All detainees shall have access to medical services that promote detainee health and general well-being.
   • III.A. Every facility will provide its detainee population with initial medical screening, cost-effective primary medical care, and emergency care.
   • III.F. Each facility will have regularly scheduled times, known as sick call, when medical personnel will be available to see detainees who have requested medical services.

   • A detainee stated that it is common for detainees who have been diagnosed with active tuberculosis to be mixed in with the general population. (p.20 ¶2)
   • The Facility does not have regular “sick calls,” as suggested in the Standards. In order to see a nurse or doctor for non-emergency care, a detainee must submit a “Sick Call Request Form.” (p.20 ¶3)
   • Detainees reported that at times it takes as long as three weeks to receive health care after submitting a Sick Call Request Form (p.20 ¶3)
   • Officer Gonsalves stated that emergency medical care is provided within four minutes of the Facility staff reporting the emergency to medical staff, and that detainees are informed of these procedures on intake. (p.20 ¶3) However, a detainee reported that it may take up to three days to get emergency medical care and that non-English speaking detainees are not given translations of medication instructions. (p.21 ¶1)
   • A detainee reported that when he requested medical attention for a rash, he was given only a document that listed helpful hints to relieve the rash, which included directions to use specific soaps and lotions; however, when he requested to receive such soaps and lotions, his request was denied. (p.21 ¶2)
   • A detainee reported that he did not get proper medical care after surgery. He was not given enough time to fully recuperate and allow his incisions to heal before being sent back to his unit. He also reported that following his heart attack, the Facility did not provide the special diet that was prescribed by his doctor. Additionally, he stated that he had tuberculosis for months before the medical staff at the Facility properly diagnosed it. He stated that the Facility is withholding proper medical attention at his peril. (p.21 ¶3)
   • A detainee stated that a request for medical care for flu and bronchitis symptoms and was not fulfilled until five days later. He also reported that he once requested aspirin and was placed in a holding cell in the medical unit for 8 hours before he received the aspirin. (p.21 ¶4)
15. Health Services Standard 1, Hunger Strikes
■ III.E. Dental Treatment. An initial dental screening exam should be performed within 14 days of the detainee’s arrival.

- A detainee who is missing teeth said the Facility does not provide partial dentures, and said that he has filed grievances indicating he is unable to chew his food. (p.22 ¶2)
- A detainee stated that when he requested dental care for a filling, the dentist removed his tooth, and the dentist said he wanted to remove the detainee’s remaining teeth as a preventive measure. (p.22 ¶2)
- Another detainee reported that the dentist at the Facility consistently recommends that his teeth be pulled instead of repairing decay through fillings, caps, bridges or crowns. (p.22 ¶2)

16. Standard 4, Detainee Classification System
■ III.E.2. Level 2 Classification. … May not include any detainee with a pattern or history of violent assaults, whether convicted or not.
- III.F. The classification system shall assign detainees to the least restrictive housing unit consistent with facility safety and security. … 3. Under no circumstances will a level two detainee with a history of assaultive or combative behavior be placed in a level one housing unit.

- According to the detainees interviewed, non-criminal detainees are commingled with criminal inmates, violent with nonviolent, and mentally ill with the general population. (p.23 ¶1)
- A detainee stated that detainees who had committed violent crimes had been classified as “Level 1,” which is the “Lowest Threat” classification, while he was classified as “Level 3,” or “Highest Threat,” even though he had not committed a violent offense and had not engaged in violent or aggressive activity while in detention that might warrant such a classification. He stated that he was being punished for having filed many grievances. (p.23 ¶1)

17. Standard 4, Detainee Classification System
■ III.I. The detainee handbook’s section on classification will include the following: 1. An explanation of the classification levels with the conditions and restrictions applicable to each.

- The Handbook identifies the classification levels, but does not include an explanation of conditions or restrictions applicable to the three classification levels (p.22 ¶5)

18. Standard 5, Detainee Grievance Procedures
■ I. [S]tandard operating procedures (SOP) must establish a reasonable time limit for: … (iii) providing written responses to detainees who filed formal grievances, including the basis for the decision.

- Detainees who filed grievances reported that their grievances had not been addressed in a timely manner, with wait times of usually three weeks to receive a response from the Facility. (p.23 ¶3)
- One detainee who has filed numerous grievances with the Facility reported that it now takes on average five to six months before the Facility provides a response to his grievances. (p.23 ¶3)
- Detainees reported that they were required to sign grievance forms indicating the issues had been resolved prior to there being a resolution, which gives the appearance that the resolutions on the Grievance Forms are acceptable to the detainees whether or not this is the case. (p.24 ¶1)
- Detainees have received responses from the Facility to grievances filed by other detainees (p.24 ¶1)
- A detainee reported that filing a grievance is discouraged. (p.24 ¶2)
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<th>Standard 5, Detainee Grievance Procedures</th>
<th>Detainees reported that Facility staff have retaliated against them for submitting grievance forms, sometimes by sending them to segregation units for periods of up to 48 hours. (p.24 ¶2) Another detainee said that Facility staff look unfavorably on those who file grievances. (p.24 ¶2)</th>
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<tr>
<td>III.D. Retaliation. Staff will not harass, discipline, punish, or otherwise retaliate against a detainee lodging a complaint.</td>
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<th>Standard 14, Religious Practices</th>
<th>Detainees indicated that other detainees who had filed numerous grievances have been retaliated against by being put in the “hole,” strip searched, denied meals, criticized, and degraded. (p.24 ¶2)</th>
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<tr>
<td>I. Detainees of different religious beliefs will be provided reasonable and equitable opportunities to participate in the practices of their respective faiths.</td>
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<td>III.M. The food service will implement procedures for accommodating, within reason, detainees’ religious dietary requirements.</td>
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<th>Standard 18, Voluntary Work Program</th>
<th>The Handbook states that detainees may volunteer to be part of the work program. (p.25 ¶4)</th>
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<td>I. Every facility with a work program will provide detainees the opportunity to work and earn money.</td>
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<td>A detainee reported that he was once assigned to work in the kitchen, but is no longer provided work opportunities. (p.25 ¶4)</td>
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<td>22. Security and Control Standard 16, Transportation (Land Transportation)</td>
<td>When detainees are transferred to and from courthouses, the Facility wakens detainees between 1:00 a.m. and 3:00 a.m. and puts them into holding cells. The detainees are then driven to the courthouse at 5:30 a.m. and put into holding cells at the courthouse. Although some cases are heard at 8:00 a.m., others are not heard until 4:00 p.m. Food is not provided to the detainees while they are in the holding cells. (p.28 ¶1)</td>
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<td>The vehicle crew will provide meals and snacks during any long-distance transfer that exceeds six hours.</td>
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