



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Office of Professional Responsibility
Inspections and Detention Oversight Division
Washington, DC 20536-5501

Office of Detention Oversight
Compliance Inspection

Enforcement and Removal Operations
ERO St. Paul Field Office

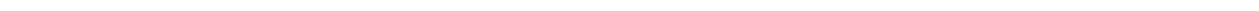
Hardin County Jail
Eldora, Iowa

March 15-19, 2021

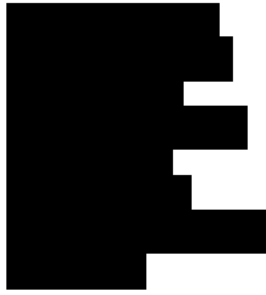
**COMPLIANCE INSPECTION
of the
HARDIN COUNTY JAIL
Eldora, Iowa**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FACILITY OVERVIEW 4
COMPLIANCE INSPECTION PROCESS 5



COMPLIANCE INSPECTION TEAM MEMBERS



Team Lead
Inspections and Compliance Specialist
Inspections and Compliance Specialist
Contractor
Contractor
Contractor
Contractor
Contractor

ODO
ODO
ODO
Creative Corrections
Creative Corrections
Creative Corrections
Creative Corrections
Creative Corrections

FACILITY OVERVIEW

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) Office of Detention Oversight (ODO) attempted to conduct a compliance inspection of the Hardin County Jail (HCJ) in Eldora, IA, from March 15-19, 2021.¹ The HCJ opened in 2000 and is owned and operated by the Hardin County Sheriff’s Office. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees in 2002, pursuant to an Intergovernmental Services Agreement with the U.S. Marshall’s Service, under the oversight of ERO’s Field Office Director in St. Paul, MN. The facility currently operates under the 2019 National Detention Standards (NDS).

ERO has no assigned deportation officers or a detention services manager at the facility. A HCJ jail administrator handles daily facility operations and is supported by █ personnel. Summit Foods provides food services, MEND Correctional Care provides medical care and Stellar Services is the commissary provider. The facility does not currently hold any accreditations from any outside entities.

| Capacity and Population Statistics | Quantity |
|--|----------|
| ICE Detainee Bed Capacity ² | 51 |
| Average ICE Detainee Population ³ | █ |
| Male Detainee Population (as of 3/01/2021) | █ |
| Female Detainee Population (as of 3/01/2021) | 0 |

ODO last inspected the HCJ in July of 2020. ODO found 39 deficiencies in the following eleven standards: Grievance System (2), Custody Classification System (3), Environmental Health and Safety (1), Food Service (4), Medical Care (7), Special Management Units (12), Staff-Detainee Communication (1), Disability Identification, Assessment and Accommodation (3), Significant Self-Harm and Prevention and Intervention (2), Religious Practices (1) and Visitation (3).

¹ This facility holds male and female detainees with low, medium-low, medium-high, and high security classification levels for periods longer than 72 hours.

² Data Source: ERO Facility List Report as of March 1, 2021.

³ *Ibid.*

COMPLIANCE INSPECTION PROCESS

ODO conducts oversight inspections of ICE detention facilities with an average daily population greater than ten, and where detainees are housed for longer than 72 hours, to assess compliance with ICE national detention standards. These inspections focus solely on facility compliance with detention standards that directly affect detainee life, health, safety, and/or well-being.⁴

ODO identifies violations of ICE detention standards, ICE policies, or operational procedures as “deficiencies.” ODO also highlights instances in which the facility resolves deficiencies prior to completion of the ODO inspection. Where applicable, these corrective actions are annotated with “C” under the *Compliance Inspection Findings* section of this report.

Upon completion of each inspection, ODO conducts a closeout briefing with facility and local ERO officials to discuss preliminary findings. A summary of these findings is shared with ERO management officials. Thereafter, ODO provides ICE leadership with a final compliance inspection report to: (i) assist ERO in developing and initiating corrective action plans; and (ii) provide senior executives with an independent assessment of facility operations. ODO’s findings inform ICE executive management in their decision-making to better allocate resources across the agency’s entire detention inventory.

ODO was unable to conduct an on-site inspection of this facility, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and instead, attempted to conduct a remote inspection of the facility. However, the facility refused to allow ODO to conduct the remote inspection, which facility staff and detainees would have been interviewed and detention records/files would have been reviewed to assess the facility’s compliance for at least 90 percent or more of the ICE national detention standards for this remote inspection.

As a result of HCJ’s refusal to participate in ODO’s remote inspection, ODO was unable to determine compliance with the ICE 2019 National Detention Standards for the facility. Therefore, ODO recommends ERO address HCJ’s inspection refusal in accordance with their contract.

⁴ ODO reviews the facility’s compliance with selected standards in their entirety.