



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
Follow-Up Compliance Inspection

Enforcement and Removal Operations
ERO Houston Field Office

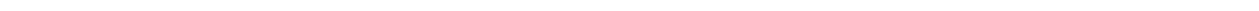
Montgomery ICE Processing Center
Conroe, Texas

May 24-27, 2021

**FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION
of the
MONTGOMERY ICE PROCESSING CENTER
Conroe, Texas**

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FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION TEAM MEMBERS



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ODO
Creative Corrections
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FACILITY OVERVIEW

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) Office of Detention Oversight (ODO) conducted a follow-up compliance inspection of the Montgomery ICE Processing Center (MIPC) in Conroe, Texas, from May 24 to 27, 2021.¹ This inspection focused on the standards found deficient during ODO’s last inspection of MIPC from January 4 to 8, 2021. The facility opened in 2018 and is owned and operated by the GEO Group, Inc. (GEO). The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at MIPC in 2018 under the oversight of ERO’s Field Office Director (FOD) in Houston (ERO Houston). The facility operates under the Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS) 2011 (Revised 2016).

ERO has assigned deportation officers and a detention services manager to the facility. A MIPC warden handles daily facility operations and supervises [REDACTED] support personnel. GEO provides food services, ICE Health Service Corps provides medical care, and Keefe Commissary Network provides commissary services at the facility. The facility received accreditation by the American Correctional Association in November 2020. Also, in November 2020, MIPC was audited for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and was DHS PREA certified.

Capacity and Population Statistics	Quantity
ICE Detainee Bed Capacity ²	1000
Average ICE Detainee Population ³	[REDACTED]
Male Detainee Population (as of May 24, 2021)	[REDACTED]
Female Detainee Population (as of May 24, 2021)	[REDACTED]

During its last inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, ODO found three deficiencies in the following areas: Admission and Release (1); Facility Security and Control (1); and Food Service (1).

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 May 17, 2021.

³ *Ibid.*

FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION PROCESS

ODO conducts oversight inspections of ICE detention facilities with an average daily population of 10 or more detainees, 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. In FY 2021, to meet congressional requirements, ODO began conducting follow-up inspections at all ICE ERO detention facilities, which ODO inspected earlier in the FY.

While follow-up inspections are intended to focus on previously identified deficiencies, ODO will conduct a complete review of several core standards, which include but are not limited to Medical Care, Hunger Strikes, Suicide Prevention, Food Service, Environmental Health and Safety, Emergency Plans, Use of Force and Restraints/Use of Physical Control Measures and Restraints, Admission and Release, Classification, and Funds and Personal Property. ODO may decide to conduct a second full inspection of a facility in the same FY based on additional information obtained prior to ODO's arrival on-site. Factors ODO will consider when deciding to conduct a second full inspection will include the total number of deficiencies cited during the first inspection, the number of deficient standards found during the first inspection, the completion status of the first inspection's UCAP, and other information ODO obtains from internal and external sources ahead of the follow-up compliance inspection. Conditions found during the inspection may also lead ODO to assess new areas and identify new deficiencies or areas of concern should facility practices run contrary to ICE standards. Any areas found non-compliant during both inspections are annotated as "Repeat Deficiencies" in this report.

ODO was unable to conduct an on-site inspection of this facility, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and instead, conducted a remote inspection of the facility. During this remote inspection, ODO interviewed facility staff, ERO field office staff, and detainees, reviewed files and detention records, and was able to assess compliance for at least 90 percent or more of the ICE national detention standards reviewed during the inspection.

**FINDINGS BY PERFORMANCE-BASED NATIONAL
DETENTION STANDARDS 2011 (REVISED 2016)
MAJOR CATEGORIES**

PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016) Standards Inspected⁴	Deficiencies
Part 1 – Safety	
Emergency Plans	0
Environmental Health and Safety	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 2 – Security	
Admission and Release	0
Custody Classification System	0
Facility Security and Control	0
Funds and Personal Property	1
Special Management Units	0
Use of Force and Restraints	0
Sub-Total	1
Part 4 – Care	
Food Service	0
Hunger Strikes	0
Medical Care	0
Medical Care (Women)	0
Significant Self-harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention	0
Sub-Total	0
Total Deficiencies	1

⁴ For greater detail on ODO’s findings, see the *Follow-Up Compliance Inspection Findings* section of this report.

DETAINEE RELATIONS

ODO interviewed 12 detainees, who each voluntarily agreed to participate. None of the detainees made allegations of discrimination, mistreatment, nor abuse and reported satisfaction with facility services. ODO attempted to conduct detainee interviews via video teleconference; however, ERO Houston and the facility were not able to accommodate this request due to technology issues. As such, ODO conducted the detainee interviews via telephone.

FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION FINDINGS

SECURITY

CUSTODY CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM (CCS)

MIPC uses a PREA questionnaire at each custody reclassification and places both documents in the detainee detention file, which ODO notes as a **Best Practice**.

FUNDS AND PERSONAL PROPERTY (FPP)

ODO reviewed the facility supplemental detainee handbook and found the handbook did not notify detainees on the procedure to access personal funds for payment of legal services (**Deficiency FPP-20⁵**).

Corrective Action: During the inspection, the facility added a section to the detainee handbook, informing detainees how to access personal funds to pay for legal services (C-1).

CONCLUSION

During this inspection, ODO assessed the facility's compliance with 13 standards under PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016) and found the facility in compliance with 12 of those standards. ODO found one deficiency in the remaining standard. ODO commends facility staff for its responsiveness during this inspection and notes one instance of immediate corrective action during the inspection.

Compliance Inspection Results Compared	First FY 2021 (PBNDS 2011) (Revised 2016)	Second FY 2021 (PBNDS 2011) (Revised 2016)
Standards Reviewed	21	13
Deficient Standards	3	1
Overall Number of Deficiencies	3	1
Repeat Deficiencies	0	0
Areas of Concern	0	0
Corrective Actions	0	1

⁵ "The detainee handbook or equivalent shall notify the detainees of facility policies and procedures related to personal property, including: ...

6. access to detainee personal funds to pay for legal services."

See PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016), Standard, Funds and Personal Property, Section, (V)(C)(6).