



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 Chicago Field Office**

**Kankakee County Jail
(Jerome Combs Detention Center)
Kankakee, Illinois**

May 17-21, 2021

FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION
of the
KANKAKEE COUNTY JAIL (JEROME COMBS DETENTION CENTER)
Kankakee, Illinois

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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 Kankakee County Jail (Jerome Combs Detention Center) (KCJ) in Kankakee, Illinois, from May 17 to 21, 2021.¹ This inspection focused on the standards found deficient during ODO’s last inspection of the KCJ from November 30 to December 3, 2021. The facility opened in April 2004 and is owned and operated by Kankakee County. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at KCJ in October 2017 under the oversight of ERO’s Field Office Director (FOD) in Chicago (ERO Chicago). The facility operates under the National Detention Standards (NDS) 2000.

ERO has assigned deportation officers to the facility. A KCJ chief handles the daily facility operation and supervises █████ support personnel. The Country Table provides food services, MJS Advantage provides medical care, and Stellar Services provides commissary services at the facility. The facility was accredited by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care in June 2020.

| Capacity and Population Statistics | Quantity |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------|
| ICE Detainee Bed Capacity ² | 144 |
| Average ICE Detainee Population ³ | █████ |
| Male Detainee Population (as of May 17, 2021) | █████ |
| Female Detainee Population (as of May 17, 2021) | █████ |

During its last inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, ODO found eight deficiencies in the following areas: Detainee Classification System (1); Detainee Grievance Procedures (1); Funds and Personal Property (1); Religious Practices (2); Population Counts (2); and Suicide Prevention and Intervention (1).

¹This facility holds male 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 NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS 2000 MAJOR CATEGORIES

| NDS 2000 Standards Inspected ⁴ | Deficiencies |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Part 1 – Detainee Services | |
| Admission and Release | 0 |
| Detainee Classification System | 0 |
| Detainee Grievance Procedures | 0 |
| Food Service | 0 |
| Funds and Personal Property | 0 |
| Religious Practices | 0 |
| Staff-Detainee Communication | 0 |
| Sub-Total | 0 |
| Part 2 – Security and Control | |
| Emergency Plans | 0 |
| Environmental Health and Safety | 0 |
| Population Counts | 0 |
| Special Management Unit (Administrative Segregation) | 0 |
| Special Management Unit (Disciplinary Segregation) | 0 |
| Use of Force | 0 |
| Sub-Total | 0 |
| Part 3 – Health Services | |
| Medical Care | 0 |
| Suicide Prevention and Intervention | 0 |
| Sub-Total | 0 |
| Total Deficiencies | 0 |

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

DETAINEE RELATIONS

ODO interviewed 12 detainees, who each volunteered to participate. None of the detainees made allegations of discrimination, mistreatment, nor abuse. Two detainees said they did not want to complete the interview because ODO could not provide any information on the status of their immigration cases. The other 10 detainees reported satisfaction with facility services except for the concern listed below. ODO attempted to conduct detainee interviews via video teleconference; however, the ERO field office and facility were not able to accommodate this request due to technology issues. As such, the detainee interviews were conducted via telephone.

Funds and Personal Property: One detainee stated he made multiple requests to the facility for a storage locker to secure personal items and has yet to receive one.

- Action Taken: ODO interviewed the facility staff concerning the detainee’s complaint. On May 19, 2021, the facility provided ODO with photographs to confirm storage lockers issued to each requesting detainee. Additionally, the facility staff instructed the detainee on the correct way to submit a formal request.

FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION FINDINGS

There were no findings to report in this follow-up compliance inspection.

CONCLUSION

During this inspection, ODO assessed the facility’s compliance with 15 standards under NDS 2000 and found the facility in compliance with all 15 of those standards. ODO commends facility staff for its responsiveness during this inspection.

| Compliance Inspection Results Compared | First FY 2021 (NDS 2000) | Second FY 2021 (NDS 2000) |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Standards Reviewed | 20 | 15 |
| Deficient Standards | 6 | 0 |
| Overall Number of Deficiencies | 8 | 0 |
| Repeat Deficiencies | 0 | 0 |
| Areas of Concern | 0 | 0 |
| Corrective Actions | 5 | 0 |