

Office of Professional Responsibility

Bell County Jail

Inspection 2025-006-049

August 21, 2025



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

**INSPECTION
of the
BELL COUNTY JAIL
Belton, Texas**

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INSPECTION TEAM MEMBERS



Team Lead

ODO

Assistant Team Lead

ODO

FACILITY OVERVIEW

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) Office of Detention Oversight (ODO) conducted an inspection of the Bell County Jail (BCJ) in Belton, Texas, from July 23 to August 21, 2025, which included a 1-day on-site visit on August 21, 2025..¹ The facility opened in 2008 and is owned and operated by the Bell County Sheriff's Office. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at BCJ in 1998 under the oversight of ERO's Field Office Director in Houston (ERO Houston). The facility is a United States Marshals Service (USMS) contracted facility where ICE is an authorized user and operates under the USMS Federal Performance Based Detention Standards (FPBDS) (May 2025)..²

[REDACTED] A major handles daily facility operations and manages [REDACTED] support personnel. Bell County provides food services, Keefe Commissary provides commissary services, and Armor Healthcare provides medical care at the facility. The facility does not hold any accreditations from any outside entities.

Capacity and Population Statistics	Quantity
ICE Bed Capacity. ³	[REDACTED]
Average ICE Population. ⁴	[REDACTED]
Adult Male Population (as of August 21, 2025)	[REDACTED]
Adult Female Population (as of August 21, 2025)	[REDACTED]

This was ODO's first inspection of BCJ.

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

² In June 2025, all USMS contracted facilities where ICE is an authorized user changed from National Detention Standards (NDS) 2019 to USMS FPBDS (May 2025).

³ Data Source: ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of August 18, 2025.

⁴ *Ibid.*

INSPECTION PROCESS

ODO conducts the following annual and biennial oversight inspections of ICE detention facilities to assess and rate each facility's compliance with their contractually obligated detention standards as noted in the Facility Overview section above.

- **Dedicated facility:** ODO conducts annual on-site inspections of dedicated inter-governmental service agreement (IGSA) facilities, contract detention facilities (CDF), family residential centers, and service processing centers.
- **Non-dedicated IGSA facility:**
 - For facilities with an average daily population (ADP) of 50 or more, ODO conducts biennial on-site inspections.
 - For facilities with an ADP of 50 less,
 - If the facility has not previously had a rated ODO inspection, then ODO conducts an initial on-site inspection, and
 - If the facility has had an ODO inspection, then the facility completes a biennial ODO-assisted self-inspection process (OASIP).
- **U.S. Marshal Service (USMS):** USMS CDF and intergovernmental agreement facilities complete biennial OASIPs.

In FY 2025, ODO implemented OASIPs, which replaced the annual Special Review inspections ODO conducted at most low ADP and/or short-term use facilities. This new inspection framework is more reflective of the actual operation demand of facilities with a low ADP and/or short-term use. OASIP inspections focus on facility compliance with detention standard requirements that directly affect detainee life, health, safety, and/or well-being. Facilities have 30 calendar days to complete the OASIP inspection and ODO staff will go on-site towards the end of the 30-day inspection window to observe facility conditions, interview ICE detainees, and spot-check the facility's reported findings.⁵

ODO defines a "deficiency" as any violation of detention standards, policies, or operational procedures, as applicable. ODO highlights instances when the facility resolves deficiencies prior to the completion of the ODO inspection as corrective actions. Where applicable, these corrective actions are annotated with a "C" in the *Inspection Findings* section of the report.

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

⁵ When ODO conducts an on-site inspection, the facility is notified 4 weeks before the inspection and ODO is on-site for 3 business days conducting the inspection.

FINDINGS BY FEDERAL PERFORMANCE BASED DETENTION STANDARDS (MAY 2025) MAJOR CATEGORIES

USMS FPBDS (May 2025) Standards Inspected. ⁶	Deficiencies
A. Administration and Management	
Quality Control	0
Facility Admission and Orientation Program	0
Detainee Transfers and Releases	0
Staffing	0
Staff Training	1
Emergency Plans	0
Sub-Total	1
B. Health Care	
Health Care Administration	0
Intake Health Screening	0
Medical, Mental Health, and Dental Appraisals	0
Access to Health Care	0
Provision of Health Care	0
Incident Health Care	0
Sub-Total	0
C. Security and Control	
Use of Force/Non-Routine Application of Restraints	0
Sub-Total	0
D. Food Service	
Food Service Administration	0
Food Storage and Preparation	0
Detainee Meals and Special Diets	0
Sub-Total	0
F. Safety and Sanitation	
Fire Safety and Chemical Control	0
Sanitation and Environmental Control	0
Clothing and Bedding	0
Sub-Total	0
G. Services and Programs	
Classification and Housing	0
Grievance Program	0
Sub-Total	0
Total Deficiencies	1

⁶ For greater detail on ODO's findings, see the *Inspection Findings* section of this report.

DETAINEE RELATIONS

The facility's ICE detainee population count was zero during the inspection; therefore, ODO did not conduct any detainee interviews.

INSPECTION FINDINGS

ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

STAFF TRAINING (ST)

ODO reviewed ■ facility staff training files and found in ■ out of ■ files, no sexual harassment/sexual misconduct awareness training for each subsequent year of employment after initial training (**Deficiency ST-1**⁷).

CONCLUSION

During this inspection, ODO assessed the facility's compliance with 21 standards under USMS FPBDS (May 2025) and found the facility in compliance with 20 of those standards. ODO found one deficiency in the remaining standard. This was ODO's first inspection of BCJ so prior inspection data does not exist for ODO to perform a trend analysis. ODO recommends ERO Houston continue to work with the facility in accordance with contractual obligations.

Inspection Results Compared	No Previous ODO Inspection	FY 2025 OASIP (FPBDS MAY 2025)
Standards Reviewed	N/A	21
Deficient Standards	N/A	1
Overall Number of Deficiencies	N/A	1
Priority Component Deficiencies	N/A	N/A
Repeat Deficiencies	N/A	N/A
Areas Of Concern	N/A	0
Corrective Actions	N/A	0
Facility Rating	N/A	Superior

⁷ "In addition to being provided a familiarization with the FPBDS, all new professional and support employees, including contractors, who have regular or daily detainee contact receive training during their first year of employment. Prior to being independently assigned to a particular job, new professional and support employees/contractors complete 40 hours of training. An additional 40 hours of training is provided each subsequent year of employment. At a minimum, this training covers the following areas: ...

q. Sexual harassment/sexual misconduct awareness."

See USMS FPBDS (May 2025), Standard, Staff Training, Section, A.10.3.q.



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