

# Office of Professional Responsibility

## Hancock County Public Safety Complex Compliance Inspection 2025-006-002

May 8, 2025



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

**ODO ASSISTED SELF-INSPECTION**  
**of the**  
**HANCOCK COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX**  
Bay St. Louis, Mississippi

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## ODO ASSISTED SELF-INSPECTION TEAM MEMBERS



Team Lead  
Assistant Team Lead

ODO  
ODO

## FACILITY OVERVIEW

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) Office of Detention Oversight (ODO) conducted an ODO assisted self-inspection process (OASIP) inspection of the Hancock County Public Safety Complex (HCPSC) in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, from April 1 to May 8, 2025, which included a 1-day, on-site visit on May 8, 2025.<sup>1</sup> The facility opened in 2021 and is owned and operated by Hancock County. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at HCPSC in 2021 under the oversight of ERO's Field Office Director in New Orleans (ERO New Orleans). The facility operates under the National Detention Standards (NDS) 2019.

[REDACTED] The warden handles daily facility operations and manages [REDACTED] support personnel. The Hancock Sheriff's Office provides food services and medical care, and Tiger provides commissary services at the facility. The facility does not hold any accreditations from any outside entities. In December 2021, HCPSC 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 Bed Capacity <sup>2</sup>	[REDACTED]
Average ICE Population <sup>3</sup>	[REDACTED]
Adult Male Population (as of May 8, 2025)	[REDACTED]
Adult Female Population (as of May 8, 2025)	[REDACTED]

During its last rated inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, ODO found 31 deficiencies in the following areas: Environmental Health and Safety (16); Food Service (11); Hunger Strikes (1); Medical Care (2); and Significant Self-harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention (1).

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

<sup>2</sup> Data Source: ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of May 5, 2025.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

## ODO ASSISTED SELF-INSPECTION PROCESS

In FY 2025, ODO implemented an OASIP, which replaces the annual Special Review inspections ODO conducted at most low average daily population (ADP) and/or short-term use facilities. This new inspection framework is more reflective of the actual operational demand of facilities with a low ADP and/or short-term use. OASIP inspections focus on facility compliance with ICE NDS 2019 requirements that directly affect detainee life, health, safety, and/or well-being, and have corresponding Federal Performance Based Detention Standards requirements. 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.

ODO identifies violations of ICE detention standards, ICE policies, or operational procedures, as "deficiencies." ODO highlights instances when the facility resolves deficiencies prior to completion of the ODO inspection as corrective actions. Where applicable, these corrective actions are annotated with "C" under the *ODO Assisted Self-Inspection Findings* section of this report.

Upon completion of each inspection, ODO conducts a closeout briefing with the 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.

## FINDINGS BY NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS 2019 MAJOR CATEGORIES

NDS 2019 Standards Inspected <sup>4</sup>	Deficiencies
<b>Part 1 - Safety</b>	
Environmental Health and Safety	0
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Part 2 - Security</b>	
Admission and Release	0
Custody Classification System	0
Use of Force and Restraints	0
Staff-Detainee Communication	0
Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention	0
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Part 4 - Care</b>	
Food Service	0
Medical Care	0
Personal Hygiene	0
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Part 6 - Justice</b>	
Grievance System	0
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Deficiencies</b>	<b>0</b>

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<sup>4</sup> For greater detail on ODO's findings, see the ODO Assisted Self-Inspection Findings section of this report.

## DETAINEE RELATIONS

ODO interviewed 10 detainees, who each voluntarily agreed to participate. None of the detainees made allegations of discrimination, mistreatment, or abuse. All detainees reported satisfaction with facility services.

## ODO ASSISTED SELF-INSPECTION FINDINGS

There were no findings during the inspection.

## CONCLUSION

During this OASIP, ODO assessed the facility's compliance with 10 standards under NDS 2019 and found the facility in compliance with all 10 standards. This inspection is the facility's first OASIP. Since HCPSC's last rated inspection in May 2024, the facility's compliance with NDS 2019 has trended upward. HCPSC went from 5 deficient standards and 31 deficiencies in May 2024 to no deficient standards nor deficiencies during this most recent inspection. ODO received HCPSC's completed uniform corrective action plan for its last inspection in May 2024, which likely resolved the previous deficiencies ODO cited. ODO recommends ERO New Orleans continue to work with the facility to maintain its high level of compliance with NDS 2019.

<b>Compliance Inspection Results Compared</b>	<b>FY 2024 Special Review (NDS 2019)</b>	<b>FY 2025 OASIP Inspection (NDS 2019)</b>
Standards Reviewed	10	10
Deficient Standards	5	0
Overall Number of Deficiencies	31	0
Priority Component Deficiencies	4	0
Repeat Deficiencies	0	0
Areas Of Concern	0	0
Corrective Actions	0	0
Facility Rating	Failure	Superior



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