

# Office of Professional Responsibility

**Northwest State Correctional Center  
Inspection 2025-006-012**

**July 29, 2025**



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

**INSPECTION  
of the  
NORTHWEST STATE CORRECTIONAL CENTER  
Swanton, Vermont**

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## INSPECTION TEAM MEMBERS



Team Lead  
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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 an inspection of the Northwest State Correctional Center (NWSCC) in Swanton, Vermont, from July 2 to 31, 2025, which included a 1-day on site visit on July 29, 2025..<sup>1</sup> The facility opened in 1968 and is owned and operated by the State of Vermont. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at NWSCC in 2004 under the oversight of ERO's Field Office Director in Boston (ERO Boston). The facility is a United States Marshals Service (USMS) contracted detention facility where ICE is an authorized user and operates under the USMS Federal Performance Based Detention Standards (FPBDS) (May 2025)..<sup>2</sup>

[REDACTED] A superintendent handles daily facility operations and manages [REDACTED] support personnel. NWSCC provides food service, WellPath provides medical care, and Keefe Commissary provides commissary services at the facility. The facility does not hold any accreditations from any outside entities.

Capacity and Population Statistics	Quantity
ICE Bed Capacity: <sup>3</sup>	[REDACTED]
Average ICE Population <sup>4</sup>	[REDACTED]
Adult Male Population (as of July 29, 2025)	[REDACTED]
Adult Female Population (as of July 29, 2025)	[REDACTED]

During its last rated inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, ODO found 26 deficiencies in the following areas: Environmental Health and Safety (9); Food Service (2); Grievance System (2); Hunger Strikes (1); Medical Care (2); Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention (4); Significant Self-harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention (1); and Staff-Detainee Communication (5).

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

<sup>2</sup> 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).

<sup>3</sup> Data Source: ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of July 28, 2025.

<sup>4</sup> *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.<sup>5</sup>

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.

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<sup>5</sup> 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 <sup>6</sup>	Deficiencies
<b>A. Administration and Management</b>	
Quality Control	0
Facility Admission and Orientation Program	0
Detainee Transfers and Releases	0
Staffing	0
Staff Training	0
Emergency Plans	0
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>B. Health Care</b>	
Health Care Administration	1
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
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>C. Security and Control</b>	
Use of Force/Non-Routine Application of Restraints	0
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>D. Food Service</b>	
Food Service Administration	0
Food Storage and Preparation	0
Detainee Meals and Special Diets	0
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>F. Safety and Sanitation</b>	
Fire Safety and Chemical Control	0
Sanitation and Environmental Control	0
Clothing and Bedding	0
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>G. Services and Programs</b>	
Classification and Housing	0
Grievance Program	0
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Deficiencies</b>	<b>1</b>

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

## DETAINEE RELATIONS

ODO interviewed five 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.

## INSPECTION FINDINGS

### HEALTH CARE

#### HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION (HCA)

ODO reviewed ■ detainee medical records and found ■ out of ■ records did not contain signed informed consent forms (**Deficiency HCA-2.7**).

## 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 the facility's first inspection under USMS FPBDS (May 2025), so prior inspection data does not exist for ODO to perform a trend analysis. ODO recommends ERO Boston continue to work with the facility in accordance with contractual obligations.

Inspection Results Compared	FY 2024 Special Review (NDS 2019)	FY 2025 OASIP (FPBDS MAY 2025)
Standards Reviewed	10	21
Deficient Standards	8	1
Overall Number of Deficiencies	26	1
Priority Component Deficiencies	4	N/A
Repeat Deficiencies	0	N/A
Areas Of Concern	0	0
Corrective Actions	2	0
Facility Rating	Acceptable/Adequate	Superior

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<sup>7</sup> "Informed consent standards of the jurisdiction are observed and documented for detainee care in a language understood by the detainee." See USMS FPBDS (May 2025), Standard, Health Care Administration, Section, B.1.10.



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