

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
Compliance Inspection

Enforcement and Removal Operations
ERO Chicago Field Office

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

November 15-18, 2021

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 compliance inspection of the Kankakee County Jail (KCJ) in Kankakee, Illinois, from November 15 to 18, 2021.¹ The facility opened in 2004 and is owned and operated by Kankakee County. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at KCJ in 2017 under the oversight of ERO's Field Office Director 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 manages [REDACTED] 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	[REDACTED]
Average ICE Detainee Population ³	[REDACTED]
Male Detainee Population (as of November 15, 2021)	[REDACTED]
Female Detainee Population (as of November 15, 2021)	[REDACTED]

During its last inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, ODO found zero deficiencies.

¹ This 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 October 12, 2021.

³ *Ibid.*

COMPLIANCE INSPECTION PROCESS

ODO conducts oversight inspections of ICE detention facilities with an average daily population greater than 10, 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.⁴

ODO identifies violations of ICE detention standards, ICE policies, or operational procedures as “deficiencies.” ODO also highlights instances in which the facility resolves deficiencies prior to completion of the ODO inspection. Where applicable, these corrective actions are annotated with “C” under the *Compliance Inspection Findings* section of this report.

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

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.

⁴ ODO reviews the facility’s compliance with selected standards in their entirety.

FINDINGS BY NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS 2000 MAJOR CATEGORIES

NDS 2000 Standards Inspected ^{5&6}	Deficiencies
Part 1 – Detainee Services	
Admission and Release	1
Correspondence and Other Mail	0
Detainee Classification System	0
Food Service	0
Funds and Personal Property	2
Group Presentations on Legal Rights	0
Issuance and Exchange of Clothing, Bedding and Towels	0
Non-Medical Emergency Escorted Trips	0
Voluntary Work Program	0
Sub-Total	3
Part 2 – Security and Control	
Detention Files	0
Detainee Transfers	0
Emergency Plans	0
Environmental Health and Safety	0
Post Orders	0
Special Management Unit (Administrative Segregation)	0
Special Management Unit (Disciplinary Segregation)	0
Use of Force	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 3 – Health Services	
Hunger Strikes	0
Medical Care	0
Suicide Prevention and Intervention	0
Sub-Total	0
Other Standards Reviewed	
NDS 2019 Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention	0
Sub-Total	0
Total Deficiencies	3

⁵ For greater detail on ODO’s findings, see the *Compliance Inspection Findings* section of this report.

⁶ Beginning in FY 2022, ODO instituted a process of rotating all standards on a 3-year basis. As a result, some standard components may not be present in all inspections.

DETAINEE RELATIONS

ODO interviewed 12 detainees, who each voluntarily agreed to participate. None of the detainees made allegations of discrimination, mistreatment, nor abuse. All detainees reported satisfaction with facility services. ODO conducted detainee interviews via video teleconference.

COMPLIANCE INSPECTION FINDINGS

DETAINEE SERVICES

ADMISSION AND RELEASE (AR)

ODO reviewed █ detainee detention files and found █ out of █ detention files did not contain the Order to Detain nor Order to Release Form (Form I-203 or I-203a) with the signature of an authorized ERO Chicago official (**Deficiency AR-34**⁷).

FUNDS AND PERSONAL PROPERTY (FPP)

ODO interviewed the facility's transfer supervisor, reviewed █ detainee files, and found █ out of █ files did not document forwarding addresses of detainees who had personal property that the detainees could lose or leave at the facility following their release, transfer, or removal (**Deficiency FPP-22**⁸).

ODO reviewed both the facility's detainee handbook and the detainee orientation presentation and found the detainee handbook did not notify detainees of the facility's policies nor procedures for claiming property upon their release, transfer, or removal (**Deficiency FPP-89**⁹).

CONCLUSION

During this inspection, ODO assessed the facility's compliance with 20 standards under NDS 2000 and 1 under the NDS 2019 and found the facility in compliance with 19 of those standards. ODO found three deficiencies in the remaining two standards. ODO recommends ERO work with the facility to resolve any deficiencies that remain outstanding in accordance with contractual obligations. A uniform corrective action plan was not required for ODO's last inspection of KCJ which occurred in May 2021.

⁷ "An order to detain or release (Form I-203 or I-203a) bearing the appropriate official signature shall accompany the newly arriving detainee." *See* ICE NDS 2000, Standard, Admission and Release, Section (III)(H).

⁸ "Standard operating procedure will include obtaining a forwarding address from every detainee who has personal property that could be lost or forgotten in the facility after the detainee's release, transfer, or removal." *See* ICE NDS 2000, Standard, Funds and Personal Property, Section (III)(C).

⁹ "The detainee handbook or equivalent shall notify the detainees of facility policies and procedures concerning personal property, including: ...

4. The procedure for claiming property upon release, transfer, or removal." *See* ICE NDS 2000, Standard, Funds and Personal Property, Section (III)(J)(4).

Compliance Inspection Results Compared	FY 2021 (NDS 2000)	FY 2022 (NDS 2000)/ (NDS 2019)
Standards Reviewed	15	20/1
Deficient Standards	0	2
Overall Number of Deficiencies	0	3
Repeat Deficiencies	0	0
Areas of Concern	0	0
Corrective Actions	0	0
Facility Rating	N/A	Superior