

#### **U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Professional Responsibility ICE Inspections Washington, DC 20536-5501

# Office of Detention Oversight Follow-Up Compliance Inspection 2024-002-337

## Enforcement and Removal Operations ERO Chicago Field Office

Kay County Justice Facility Newkirk, Oklahoma

August 6-8, 2024

# FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION of the KAY COUNTY JUSTICE FACILITY

Newkirk, Oklahoma

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### FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION TEAM MEMBERS

Team Lead	ODO
Assistant Team Lead	ODO
Senior Inspections and Compliance Specialist	ODO
Contractor	Creative Corrections
Contractor	Creative Corrections
Contractor	Creative Corrections
Contractor	<b>Creative Corrections</b>

#### 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 Kay County Justice Facility (KCJF) in Newkirk, Oklahoma, from August 6 to 8, 2024. This inspection focused on the standards found deficient during ODO's last inspection of KCJF from March 5 to 7, 2024. The facility opened in 2010 and is owned and operated by Kay County Justice Authority. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at KCJF in 2019 under the oversight of ERO's Field Office Director in Chicago (ERO Chicago). The facility operates under the National Detention Standards (NDS) 2019.

A KCJF director handles daily facility operations and manages support personnel. Benchmark provides food services, Turn-Key Medical provides medical care, and Tiger Correctional Services provides commissary services at the facility. The facility does not hold any accreditations from any outside entities. In August 2021, KCJF 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>	
Average ICE Population <sup>3</sup>	
Adult Male Population (as of August 6, 2024)	
Adult Female Population (as of August 6, 2024)	

During its last full inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, ODO found 8 deficiencies in the following areas: Facility Security and Control (1); Medical Care (4); Religious Practices (1); and Significant Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention (2).

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Data Source: ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of August 5, 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ibid.

#### FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION PROCESS

ODO conducts biannual oversight inspections of ICE detention facilities with an average daily population (ADP) of 10 or more detainees, and where detainees are housed for longer than 72-hours, to assess compliance with ICE National Detention Standards. In FY 2021, to meet congressional requirements, ODO began conducting follow-up inspections at all over-72-hour ICE detention facilities with an ADP of 10 or more detainees that ODO conducted a full inspection of earlier in the FY. Follow-up inspections focus on facility compliance with detention standards that directly affect detainee life, health, safety, and/or well-being, and other standards ODO found deficient during the previous rated inspection to assess the facility's corrective actions taken to address those previously cited deficiencies.<sup>4</sup>

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. Where applicable, these corrective actions are annotated with "C" under the *Compliance Inspection Findings* section of this report.

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 uniform corrective action plan (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 the full and follow-up inspection are annotated as "Repeat Deficiencies" in this report.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> ODO reviews the facility's compliance with selected standards in their entirety.

#### FINDINGS BY NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS 2019 **MAJOR CATEGORIES**

NDS 2019 Standards Inspected <sup>5,6</sup>	Deficiencies
Part 1 - Safety	•
Environmental Health and Safety	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 2 - Security	•
Admission and Release	0
Custody Classification System	0
Facility Security and Control	0
Funds and Personal Property	0
Use of Force and Restraints	0
Special Management Units	0
Staff-Detainee Communication	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 4 - Care	•
Food Service	0
Hunger Strikes	0
Medical Care	1
Significant Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention	0
Sub-Total	1
Part 5 - Activities	•
Recreation	0
Religious Practices	0
Telephone Access	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 6 - Justice	
Grievance System	0
Sub-Total	0
Total Deficiencies	1

For greater detail on ODO's findings, see the Follow-up Compliance Inspection Findings section of this report.
 Beginning in FY 2024, ODO instituted a process of rotating all standards every other year. As a result, some standards may not be present in all inspections.

#### DETAINEE RELATIONS

ODO interviewed 23 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.

#### FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION FINDINGS

#### <u>CARE</u>

MEDICAL CARE (MC)

ODO reviewed detainee medical files and found in out of files, facility medical staff conducted and documented a comprehensive health assessment 16 days after the detainee's arrival (Deficiency MC-27). This is a priority component.

#### **CONCLUSION**

During this inspection, ODO assessed the facility's compliance with 16 standards under NDS 2019 and found the facility in compliance with 15 of those standards. ODO found one deficiency in the remaining one standard. Since KCJF's last full inspection in March 2024, the facility has trended upward. KCJF went from 4 deficient standards and 8 deficiencies in March 2024 to 1 deficient standard and 1 deficiency during this most recent full inspection. ODO has not received the completed UCAP for ODO's last inspection of KCJF in March 2024, preventing ODO from assessing the UCAP's effectiveness with resolving the previously identified deficiencies. ODO recommends ERO Chicago continue to work with the facility to resolve any remaining deficiencies in accordance with contractual obligations.

Compliance Inspection Results Compared	FY 2024 Full Inspection (NDS 2019)	FY 2024 Follow-Up Inspection (NDS 2019)
Standards Reviewed	24	16
Deficient Standards	4	1
Overall Number of Deficiencies	8	1
Priority Component Deficiencies	1	1
Repeat Deficiencies	2	0
Areas Of Concern	2	0
Corrective Actions	0	0
Facility Rating	Good	N/A

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> "The facility will conduct and document a comprehensive health assessment, including a physical examination and mental health screening, on each detainee within 14 days of the detainee's arrival at the facility." *See* ICE NDS 2019, Standard, Medical Care, Section (II)(E).