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Office of Detention Oversight
Special Review
2024-003-406

Enforcement and Removal Operations
ERO Salt Lake City Field Office

Minicassia Detention Center
Burley, Idaho

July 23-25, 2024

**SPECIAL REVIEW
of the
MINICASSIA DETENTION CENTER
Burley, Idaho**

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SPECIAL REVIEW TEAM MEMBERS



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FACILITY OVERVIEW

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) Office of Detention Oversight (ODO) attempted to conduct a special review of the Minicassia Detention Center (MDC) in Burley, Idaho, from July 23 to 25, 2024.¹ MDC opened in 1991 and is co-owned by Minidoka and Cassia Counties and operated by the Cassia County Sheriff's Office. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at MDC in 1993 under the oversight of ERO's Field Office Director in Salt Lake City (ERO SLC). MDC operates under the National Detention Standards (NDS) 2019.

[REDACTED] A facility administrator handles daily operations and manages [REDACTED] support personnel. Summit Food Services provides food and commissary services, and Sawtooth Correctional Medicine provides medical care at the facility. The facility was accredited by the Idaho Sheriffs' Association in December 2022. In February 2023, MDC 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 Detainee Bed Capacity. ²	[REDACTED]
Average ICE Detainee Population. ³	[REDACTED]
Male Detainee Population (as of July 23, 2024)	[REDACTED]
Female Detainee Population (as of July 23, 2024)	[REDACTED]

During its last special review, in FY 2023, ODO found 60 deficiencies in the following areas: Detainee Handbook (2); Environmental Health and Safety (25); Food Service (8); Hunger Strikes (1); Medical Care (16); Significant Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention (3); Special Management Units (3); and Use of Force and Restraints (2).

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

² Data Source: ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of July 15, 2024.

³ *Ibid.*

SPECIAL REVIEW PROCESS

ODO conducts oversight inspections of ICE detention facilities with an average daily population (ADP) of 10 or more, and where detainees are housed for over 72 hours, to assess compliance with ICE national detention standards. While these inspections focus on facility compliance with detention standards that directly affect detainee life, health, safety, and/or well-being, in FY 2024 ODO added additional standards to the scope of each full inspection to ensure ODO inspects every standard at each facility at least once every other year.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.

In FY 2022, ODO began conducting special reviews of under 72-hour ICE detention facilities with an ADP of 1 or more detainees and over 72-hour ICE detention facilities with an ADP of 1 to 9 detainees. Additionally, ODO began conducting unannounced inspections of ICE detention facilities, regardless of ADP of detainees, as well as reviews of ICE special/emerging detention facilities/programs. As such, these facility inspections will result in an ODO Inspection Compliance Rating; however, for facilities that are not contractually obligated to an ICE NDS, those ratings will be for ERO’s informational purposes. ODO will conduct a complete review of several core standards, in accordance with the facility’s contractually required ICE NDS or in accordance with the ICE NDS listed in the current ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List for facilities that are not contractually obligated to an ICE NDS, which may include but are not limited to Medical Care/Health Care, Medical Care (Women)/Health Care (Females), Significant Self-harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention, Hunger Strikes, Food Service, Environmental Health and Safety, Special Management Units (SMU) or Hold Rooms (if the facility does not have an SMU) Use of Force and Restraints/Use of Physical Control Measures, and Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention.

Upon completion of each special review or unannounced 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 uniform corrective action plans (UCAPs); 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.

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

CONCLUSION

ODO attempted to conduct an on-site special review of MDC; however, on July 16, 2024, MDC notified ERO SLC they refused ODO's scheduled on-site special review. MDC's refusal of the ODO special review resulted in ODO marking all line items that would have been inspected as deficient and assigning a facility rating of "Failure" to this inspection. This is the second consecutive inspection for MDC that ODO assigned a facility rating of "Failure." ODO recommends ERO discontinue its use of MDC until the facility permits and passes a full compliance inspection.

Compliance Inspection Results Compared	FY 2023 (NDS 2019)	FY 2024 (NDS 2019)
Facility Rating	Failure	Failure