



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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Office of Professional Responsibility
ICE Inspections
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**Office of Detention Oversight
Special Review
2023-003-168**

**Enforcement and Removal Operations
ERO Miami Field Office**

**Pinellas County Jail
Clearwater, Florida**

July 18-20, 2023

**SPECIAL REVIEW
of the
PINELLAS COUNTY JAIL
Clearwater, Florida**

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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 special review of the Pinellas County Jail (PCJ) in Clearwater, Florida, from July 18 to 20, 2023.¹ The facility opened in 1998 and is owned and operated by the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at PCJ in February 2003 under the oversight of ERO’s Field Office Director in Miami (ERO Miami). ICE is an authorized user of this facility under a United States Marshals Service intergovernmental agreement contract, which does not specify an ICE National Detention Standard (NDS), and ODO inspected to the NDS listed on the ERO Facility List as of July 17, 2023. PCJ was inspected against the NDS 2019, and ODO’s assigned rating is for ERO’s informational purposes only..

[REDACTED] A facility colonel handles daily facility operations and manages [REDACTED] support personnel. Aramark Correctional Services provides food services, Naphcare provides medical care, and Aramark Correctional Services provides commissary services at the facility. The facility was accredited by: the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement in March 2020; the American Correctional Association in November 2021; the National Commission on Correctional Health Care in August 2022; and the Florida Model Jail Standard in June 2023. In November 2021, PCJ was audited for the Department of Justice (DOJ) Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and was DOJ PREA certified.

| Capacity and Population Statistics | Quantity |
|---|----------|
| ICE Bed Capacity ² | |
| Average ICE Population ³ | |
| Adult Male Population (as of July 18, 2023) | |
| Adult Female Population (as of July 18, 2023) | |

This was ODO’s first compliance inspection of the Pinellas County Jail.

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

² Data Source: ERO Facility List as of July 17, 2023.

³ *Ibid.*

SPECIAL REVIEW PROCESS

ODO conducts 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 NDS. 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 *Special Review Findings* section of this report.

Beginning fiscal year (FY) 2022, ODO will conduct 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 will conduct 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. ODO will conduct a complete review of several core standards, which may include but are not limited to Medical Care/Health Care, Medical Care (Women)/Health Care (Females), Hunger Strikes, Suicide Prevention, Food Service, Environmental Health and Safety, Emergency Plans, Use of Force and Restraints/Use of Physical Control Measures and Restraints, Special Management Units, Educational Policy (Family Residential Standard (FRS) only), Behavior Management (FRS only), Admission and Release, Classification, and Funds and Personal Property.

Upon completion of each review, 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 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.

FINDINGS BY NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS 2019 MAJOR CATEGORIES

| NDS 2019 Standards Inspected ^{5,6} | Deficiencies |
|---|--------------|
| Part - 1 Safety | |
| Environmental Health and Safety | 1 |
| Sub-Total | 1 |
| Part 2 - Security | |
| Use of Force and Restraints | 0 |
| Special Management Units | 0 |
| Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention | 3 |
| Sub-Total | 3 |
| Part 4 - Care | |
| Food Service | 2 |
| Medical Care | 0 |
| Significant Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention | 0 |
| Terminal Illness and Death | 0 |
| Sub-Total | 2 |
| Part 5 - Activities | |
| Recreation | 0 |
| Sub-Total | 0 |
| Part 6 - Justice | |
| Detainee Handbook | 0 |
| Sub-Total | 6 |
| Total Deficiencies | 6 |

⁵ For greater detail on ODO's findings, see the *Special Review 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 standards.

DETAINEE RELATIONS

ODO interviewed one detainee, who voluntarily agreed to participate. The detainee made no allegations of discrimination, mistreatment, or abuse, and reported satisfaction with facility services. Despite having a current population of one detainee, the facility maintains an active contract to house ICE detainees and had an FY 2022 ADP of 2 ICE detainees, thus meeting ODO's inspection criteria to conduct special reviews.

SPECIAL REVIEW FINDINGS

SAFETY

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (EHS)

ODO reviewed the facility's written emergency plans and procedures and found they did not specifically include procedures for detainees with disabilities (**Deficiency EHS-25**⁷).

SECURITY

SEXUAL ABUSE AND ASSAULT PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION (SAAPI)

ODO toured the facility, reviewed the facility handbook, interviewed facility staff, and found the facility did not provide detainees with the name of the facility's program coordinator or designated staff member nor information on how to contact him or her (**Deficiency SAAPI-48**⁸).

ODO toured the facility, interviewed facility staff, and found the facility did not post sexual abuse and assault awareness notices, to include the names and contact information of the facility prevention of sexual assault compliance manager and local organizations providing assistance to victims of sexual abuse and assault (**Deficiency SAAPI-52**⁹).

ODO toured the facility, interviewed facility staff, and found no posted sexual abuse and assault awareness notices in English nor Spanish in the housing-units and no "Sexual Assault Awareness Information" pamphlets to distribute (**Deficiency SAAPI-54**¹⁰).

⁷ "Plans will include procedures for detainees with disabilities to ensure their safety and security during the facility response." See ICE NDS 2019, Standard, Environmental Health and Safety, Section (II)(B).

⁸ "The facility shall provide detainees with the name of the program coordinator or designated staff member and information on how to contact him or her." See ICE NDS 2019, Standard, Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention, Section (II)(F)(1).

⁹ "ICE/ERO will provide a sexual abuse and assault awareness notice to be posted on all housing-unit bulletin boards, as well as a "Sexual Assault Awareness Information" pamphlet to be distributed. The facility shall post with this notice the name of the facility PSA Compliance Manager and information about local organizations that can assist detainees who have been victims of sexual abuse and assault, including mailing addresses and telephone numbers (including toll-free hotline numbers where available)." See ICE NDS 2019, Standard, Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention, Section (II)(F)(3).

¹⁰ "This information will be provided in English and Spanish, and to other segments of the detainee population with limited English proficiency through translations or oral interpretation." See ICE NDS 2019, Standard, Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention, Section (II)(F)(3).

CARE

FOOD SERVICE (FS)

ODO toured the FS department and found in 10 out of 10 garbage/refuse containers, no covers nor insect and rodent prevention measures (**Deficiency FS-92**¹¹).

ODO toured the FS department, interviewed the food service director (FSD), inspected three toilet facilities in FS, and found no facility signs displayed for all personnel to wash hands after using the toilet (**Deficiency FS-101**¹²).

ODO interviewed the FSD, inspected FS operations, and found the condition of food trays in use as a potential source of food contamination. Specifically, chips from frayed plastic food trays have the potential for spilling into and contaminating food items. In addition, ODO found deep scratches on food trays and noted them as another source of food contamination. ODO noted this potential for contamination as an **Area of Concern**.

CONCLUSION

During this special review, ODO assessed the facility's compliance with 10 standards under NDS 2019 and found the facility in compliance with 7 of those standards. ODO found six deficiencies in the remaining three standards. Most of the deficiencies ODO identified are administrative in nature and are the result of no written facility policy or procedure. Since this special review is ODO's first inspection of PCJ, ODO did not conduct a trend analysis. ODO recommends ERO Miami work with the facility to resolve any deficiencies that remain outstanding in accordance with contractual obligations.

| Compliance Inspection Results Compared | No Previous ODO Inspection | FY 2023 Special Review (NDS 2019) |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| Standards Reviewed | N/A | 10 |
| Deficient Standards | N/A | 3 |
| Overall Number of Deficiencies | N/A | 6 |
| Priority Component Deficiencies | N/A | 0 |
| Repeat Deficiencies | N/A | N/A |
| Areas Of Concern | N/A | 1 |
| Corrective Actions | N/A | 0 |
| Corrective Actions | N/A | 0 |
| Facility Rating | N/A | Superior |

¹¹ "The garbage/refuse containers shall have sufficient capacity for the volume, and shall be kept covered, cleaned frequently, and insect and rodent proof." See ICE NDS 2019, Standard, Food Service, Section (II)(I)(5)(j).

¹² "Signs shall be prominently displayed directing all personnel to wash hands after using the toilet." See ICE NDS 2019, Standard, Food Service, Section (II)(I)(7).