

# Office of Professional Responsibility

**Sebastian County Detention Center**

**Inspection 2025-006-032**

**June 10, 2025**



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

**ODO ASSISTED SELF-INSPECTION**  
**of the**  
**SEBASTIAN COUNTY DETENTION CENTER**  
Fort Smith, Arkansas

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## INSPECTION TEAM MEMBERS



Team Lead  
Senior Inspections and Compliance Specialist

ODO  
ODO

## FACILITY OVERVIEW

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) Office of Detention Oversight (ODO) conducted an ODO assisted self-inspection (OASIP) of the Sebastian County Detention Center (SCDC) in Fort Smith, Arkansas, from May 6 to June 12, 2025 which included a 1-day on-site visit on June 10, 2025..<sup>1</sup> The facility opened in 1998 and is owned and operated by Sebastian County Sheriff's Office. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at SCDC in 1998 under the oversight of ERO's Field Office Director in New Orleans (ERO New Orleans). 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). ODO inspected SCDC against the NDS 2019, which is listed on the ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of June 9, 2025..<sup>2</sup>

[REDACTED] A Sebastian County Sheriff lieutenant handles daily facility operations and manages [REDACTED] support personnel. Aramark provides food and commissary services, and Turnkey Health Clinics provides medical care 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 June 10, 2025)   | [REDACTED] |
| Adult Female Population (as of June 10, 2025) | [REDACTED] |

This was ODO's first compliance inspection of Sebastian County Detention Center.

<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> At the time of this inspection, United States Marshals Service facilities were inspected under NDS 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Data Source: ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of June 9, 2025.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

## ODO ASSISTED SELF-INSPECTION PROCESS

In FY 2025, ODO implemented an OASIP, which replaces the annual Special Review inspections ODO conducted at most low average daily population (ADP) and/or short-term use facilities. This new inspection framework is more reflective of the actual operational demand of facilities with low ADP and/or short-term use. OASIP inspections focus on facility compliance with ICE NDS 2019 requirements that directly affect detainee life, health, safety, and/or well-being, and have corresponding Federal Performance Based Detention Standards requirements. 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.

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 as corrective actions. Where applicable, these corrective actions are annotated with "C" under the *ODO Assisted Self-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.

## FINDINGS BY NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS 2019 MAJOR CATEGORIES

| NDS 2019 Standards Inspected: <sup>5</sup>           | Deficiencies |
|--|--------------|
| <b>Part 1 - Safety</b>                               |              |
| Environmental Health and Safety                      | 0            |
| <b>Sub-Total</b>                                     | <b>0</b>     |
| <b>Part 2 - Security</b>                             |              |
| Admission and Release                                | 0            |
| Custody Classification System                        | 0            |
| Use of Force and Restraints                          | 0            |
| Staff-Detainee Communication                         | 0            |
| Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention | 1            |
| <b>Sub-Total</b>                                     | <b>1</b>     |
| <b>Part 4 - Care</b>                                 |              |
| Food Service   | 0            |
| Medical Care   | 0            |
| Personal Hygiene                                     | 1            |
| <b>Sub-Total</b>                                     | <b>1</b>     |
| <b>Part 6 - Justice</b>                              |              |
| Grievance System                                     | 0            |
| <b>Sub-Total</b>                                     | <b>0</b>     |
| <b>Total Deficiencies</b>                            | <b>2</b>     |

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<sup>5</sup> For greater detail on ODO's findings, see the ODO Assisted Self-Inspection Findings section of this report.

## DETAINEE RELATIONS

The facility's ICE detainee population count was zero during the inspection; therefore, ODO did not conduct any detainee interviews. Despite the facility housing no detainees during the on-site inspection, the facility maintains an active contract to house ICE detainees and had an ADP of 1 ICE detainee for FY 2024.

## ODO ASSISTED SELF-INSPECTION FINDINGS

### SECURITY

#### SEXUAL ABUSE AND ASSAULT PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION (SAAPI)

ODO interviewed an SCDC lieutenant and reviewed the facility's Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) training course dated July 19, 2023, and found the facility did not provide a biennial refresher training after the initial new hire PREA training (**Deficiency SAAPI-26<sup>6</sup>**). **This is a priority component.**

### CARE

#### PERSONAL HYGIENE (PH)

ODO interviewed an SCDC lieutenant and found the facility did not exchange detainee socks and undergarments daily. Specifically, the facility did not issue undergarments nor socks to detainees upon arrival. SCDC did wash twice weekly what undergarments and socks detainees brought with them or purchased from the commissary (**Deficiency PH-11<sup>7</sup>**). **This is a priority component.**

## CONCLUSION

During this OASIP, ODO assessed the facility's compliance with 10 standards under NDS 2019 and found the facility in compliance with 8 of those standards. ODO found two deficiencies in the remaining two standards. Because this was ODO's first inspection of SCDC, prior inspection data does not exist for ODO to perform a trend analysis. ODO recommends ERO New Orleans work with the facility to resolve the remaining deficiencies in accordance with contractual obligations.

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<sup>6</sup> "Training on the facility's Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention Program shall be included in training for all employees and shall also be included in biennial refresher training thereafter." See ICE NDS 2019, Standard, Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention, Section (II)(E).

<sup>7</sup> "Socks and undergarments will be exchanged daily, outer garments at least twice weekly and sheets, towels, and pillowcases at least weekly." See ICE NDS 2019, Standard, Personal Hygiene, Section (II)(E).

| <b>Compliance Inspection Results Compared</b> | <b>No Previous<br/>ODO Inspection</b> | <b>FY 2025<br/>OASIP Inspection<br/>(NDS 2019)</b> |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Standards Reviewed                            | N/A                                   | 10   |
| Deficient Standards                           | N/A                                   | 2  |
| Overall Number of Deficiencies                | N/A                                   | 2  |
| Priority Component Deficiencies               | N/A                                   | 2  |
| Repeat Deficiencies                           | N/A                                   | N/A  |
| Areas Of Concern                              | N/A                                   | 0  |
| Corrective Actions                            | N/A                                   | 0  |
| Facility Rating                               | N/A                                   | Acceptable   |





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