



Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Summary of CRCL's Recommendations and ICE's Response *El Paso Service Processing Center*

On May 22, 2023, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) responded to an *Expert Recommendation Memorandum* issued following a targeted onsite investigation at El Paso Service Processing Center (SPC) by Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) in September 2022. ICE concurred with three recommendations, partially concurred with eight, and non-concurred with two.

Background

Between November 2021 and June 2022, CRCL opened three complaint investigations involving noncitizens in ICE custody at El Paso SPC. The allegations raised concerns related to requirements aimed at the prevention of sexual abuse. To address these concerns, CRCL conducted a targeted investigation at the El Paso SPC in August 2022 focused on compliance with the DHS Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Standards and ICE's Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention (SAAPI) policy.

Findings and Recommendations

On September 26, 2022, CRCL issued ICE an *Expert Recommendation Memorandum* based on its investigation conducted with the assistance of a contract subject matter expert. The memo includes 13 recommendations relating to PREA. The following highlights the top three findings and actions that ICE agreed to take as a result of CRCL's recommendations.

Camera Monitoring

CRCL determined that El Paso SPC had insufficient camera coverage and that there were numerous blind spots around the facility. ICE agreed and provided CRCL information about the installation of an updated system at El Paso SPC that was completed in March 2023. ICE also agreed to make staffing plans to ensure constant line of sight supervision, to place roving officers to cover all possible blind spots, to institute one-way walking lanes, and to install several security mirrors to enable continuous visual monitoring.

Restroom Access

CRCL found that facility staff were preventing noncitizens from using the bathroom during the 15-minute period between when an opposite-gender staff member was announced and when that opposite-gender staff member entered the housing unit. ICE agreed and reminded staff to allow detainees the use of restrooms when needed, including during that 15-minute period.

Language Access

While there were not many Turkish-speaking noncitizens at the facility, CRCL found limitations with respect to language access for Turkish speakers. Staff and noncitizens reported difficulty in obtaining Turkish language interpretive services. ICE agreed to have several forms and the SAAPI/PREA pamphlet translated into the Turkish language.

CRCL provides the public with documents related to complaint investigations. After it has been prepared and reviewed, CRCL will post a redacted version of this Recommendation Memorandum on our [website](#) that will contain additional information about the complaint investigation and CRCL's findings and recommendations.

September 20, 2023