



Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Summary of CRCL's Recommendations and ICE's Response *Orange County Jail*

On December 27, 2023, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) responded to an *Expert Recommendation Memorandum* issued in July 2023 by the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) that followed a multidisciplinary onsite investigation at the Orange County Jail (OCJ). ICE concurred with 13 recommendations, partially concurred with nine, and non-concurred with 27.

Background

Between November 2021 and April 2022, CRCL opened seven complaint investigations involving noncitizens in ICE custody at OCJ. The allegations raised concerns related to excessive use of force, communication between staff and noncitizens, and retaliation. As a result of these complaints, CRCL conducted a multidisciplinary onsite investigation at OCJ in October 2022 to examine the facility's operations, assess issues raising civil rights and civil liberties concerns, and review prior concerns raised during a CRCL spot check investigation at OCJ in May 2022.

Findings and Recommendations

On July 18, 2023, CRCL issued ICE an *Expert Recommendation Memorandum* based on its investigation conducted with the assistance of four subject matter experts. The memorandum included 49 recommendations in the general areas of conditions of detention, medical care, mental health care, and environmental health and safety. The following highlights the top three findings and actions that ICE agreed to take as a result of CRCL's recommendations.

Timely Medical Care

CRCL determined that intake medical staff did not consistently refer noncitizens to the medical provider for their reported medical conditions, as required by the detention standards. ICE agreed and noted that a corrective action plan related to this finding was issued to the facility in May 2023 and that ICE and the Immigration Health Service Corps Field Medical Coordinator assigned to OCJ will follow up to ensure compliance with this standard.

Handbook

CRCL found that the admission section of OCJ's "Detainee Handbook" did not state that authorized personal property will include additional disability-related aides as approved by OCJ to ensure that noncitizens with a disability have equal opportunity to participate in the facility's programs and services. ICE agreed and indicated that OCJ updated its handbook to reflect approved disability-related aides.

Custody Staffing

CRCL found that custody staff vacancies had resulted in a 70 bed decrease to the medium-high and high bed capacity. However, CRCL concluded that these noncitizen population levels should not be increased until custody staff vacancy levels throughout the facility were filled, and all noncitizen programs, services and security needs had been fulfilled. ICE agreed and indicated that there are no plans to increase the medium-high and high-level noncitizen population beyond staffing limits.

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

March 4, 2024