



# Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

## Summary of CRCL's Recommendations and ICE's Response Imperial Regional Detention Facility

On May 12, 2023, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) responded to an *Expert Recommendation Memorandum* issued following an investigation at the Imperial Regional Detention Center (IRDF) by the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) in September 2022. ICE concurred with ten recommendations, partially concurred with one, and non-concurred with 27.

### Background

Between May 2021 and February 2022, CRCL opened six complaint investigations involving noncitizens in ICE custody at IRDF. The allegations raised concerns related to prolonged segregation, retaliation, medical care, food, and water sanitation. As a result of these complaints, CRCL conducted a multidisciplinary investigation at IRDF in May 2022 not only to review those allegations, but also to examine the facility's overall operations to assess any additional civil rights and civil liberties concerns.

### Findings and Recommendations

In September of 2022, CRCL issued ICE an *Expert Recommendation Memorandum* based on its investigation conducted with the assistance of contract subject matter experts. The memo included 38 recommendations in the 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.

#### **Mental Health Referrals**

CRCL determined that the facility did not refer noncitizens for mental health care after there was an indicated history of abuse during intake screening. ICE agreed to refer noncitizens to the mental health team for further assessment when they provide affirmative responses to the behavioral health screening questions during intake.

#### **Confidentiality During Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Assessments**

CRCL found that the facility conducted PREA/Sexual Assault Victim/Predator assessments in a public area. ICE agreed to have the facility provide training to staff about confidentiality, to continue to monitor the screening procedures, and to ensure PREA assessments are conducted in a private setting.

#### **Mixing of Genders**

CRCL found that the facility placed male and female noncitizens in the same housing unit when quarantining recently arrived non-citizens due to COVID-19 protocols. ICE agreed to ensure that female noncitizens were moved into a separate housing unit from male noncitizens during quarantine to ensure that noncitizens are safe from sexual harassment or sexual assault.

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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.

September 20, 2023