



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

On December 6, 2022, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) responded to a Key Civil Rights Findings and Recommendations Memorandum issued in July 2022 by the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) that followed a spot check investigation at the Orange County Jail. ICE concurred with 12 recommendations, partially concurred with one, and non-concurred with three.

Background

Between January 2021 and April 2022, CRCL opened 13 complaint investigations involving noncitizens in ICE custody at Orange County Jail (OCJ). The allegations raised concerns related to inadequate medical and mental health care, excessive use of force, and officer mistreatment. As a result of these complaints, CRCL conducted a spot check investigation in May 2022 to examine the facility's operations and assess issues raising civil rights and civil liberties concerns.

Findings and Recommendations

In July 2022, CRCL issued ICE a Key Civil Rights Findings and Recommendations Memorandum based on its spot check investigation conducted with the assistance of a contract subject matter experts. The memo includes 16 recommendations related to conditions of detention and medical care. The following highlights the top three findings and actions that ICE agreed to take as a result of CRCL's recommendations.

Intake Medical Screening

CRCL found that noncitizens with reported acute or chronic medical conditions during intake screening were not consistently evaluated by a medical provider as quickly as possible, but no later than two working days. OCJ agreed to assign a designated provider to track and monitor compliance with this standard, as well as the timeliness of dental screenings, chronic care appointments, and health service requests. Further, the ICE Health Service Corps (IHSC) Field Medical Coordinator (FMC) assigned to OCJ will follow up to ensure compliance with the recommendation through onsite and remote review of records with the medical vendor.

Sick Call

CRCL found that nursing staff were not providing timely face-to-face evaluation of noncitizens in response to sick call requests within 24 hours of the receipt of the request. OCJ agreed to designate a qualified health professional assigned to track and monitor all detainee sick call compliance measures. ICE agreed to follow up to ensure continued compliance.

Medication Administration

CRCL found expired medicine in medication storage areas. ICE agreed to direct the vendor providing medical services to properly dispose of any medication that is past its expiration date and to ensure continued compliance via monthly spot checks by the IHSC FMC.