



Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Summary of CRCL's Recommendations and ICE's Response Winn Correctional Center

On October 4, 2022, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) responded to an Expert Recommendation Memorandum issued in November 2021 by the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) that followed an onsite investigation at Winn Correctional Center (Winn). ICE concurred with 57 recommendations, partially concurred with 14, and non-concurred with 17.

Background

Between June 2020 and February 2021, CRCL opened seven complaints involving noncitizens in ICE custody at Winn. The allegations raised concerns related to COVID-19 protocols, the death of a noncitizen, suicide prevention and intervention, use of force, and the treatment of LGBTQI+ and HIV-positive noncitizens. As a result of these complaints, CRCL conducted a multidisciplinary investigation at Winn in July 2021 to examine the facility's operations and assess issues raising civil rights and civil liberties concerns.

Findings and Recommendations

On November 17, 2021, CRCL issued ICE an Expert Recommendation Memorandum based on its investigation conducted with the assistance of contract subject matter experts. The memo included 88 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.

Firearm Safety

CRCL found that firearms were issued to at least one officer who did not have the required firearms training and to multiple staff without completed background checks. As a result, ICE sent the one officer for required firearms certification and counseled a supervisor to check certification reports before assigning posts.

Mental Health

CRCL found that Winn did not have onsite mental health staff. Following the onsite investigation, ICE contracted with a mental health care provider for onsite mental health services. A clinical supervisor and mental health clinician were hired, and a remote psychiatrist now provides clinical supervision.

Physical Facility Improvements

CRCL determined that Winn did not meet detention standards for the ratio of plumbing fixtures per noncitizens in housing units. ICE agreed to install additional showers, washbasins, and toilets in housing units. CRCL also noted that the Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshall found that smoke barrier doors were not functioning properly. ICE notified CRCL that a proposal was submitted to the State Fire Marshall office for altering housing unit doors to comply with state building codes.

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.

February 8, 2024