



Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Summary of CRCL's Recommendations and ICE's Response *Folkston ICE Processing Center*

On December 27, 2023, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) responded to an *Onsite Recommendation Memorandum* issued on August 23, 2023, by the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) that followed a multidisciplinary onsite investigation at the Folkston ICE Processing Center (FIPC). ICE concurred with three recommendations, partially concurred with two, and non-concurred with ten.

Background

Between May and October 2022, CRCL opened five complaint investigations involving noncitizens in ICE custody at FIPC. The allegations raised concerns related to intimidation, threats, misuse of the disciplinary process and medical care. As a result of these complaints, CRCL conducted a multidisciplinary onsite investigation at FIPC in April 2023 to review those allegations, examine the facility's operations, and assess issues that may raise additional civil rights and civil liberties concerns.

Findings and Recommendations

On August 23, 2023, CRCL issued ICE an *Onsite Recommendation Memorandum* based on its investigation conducted with the assistance of contract subject matter experts. The memo included 15 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.

Suicide Prevention

CRCL found that the facility's use of its suicide prevention cells as a medical appointment waiting area was problematic, as those cells should always remain available for noncitizens on suicide watch. ICE agreed to discontinue use of these cells as a waiting area.

Grievances

CRCL determined that the facility did not have a grievance box within the special management unit (SMU), preventing noncitizens from directly accessing the grievance system without involving an officer. ICE agreed to install grievance boxes within the SMU and completed this action on September 20, 2023.

Documenting Chemical Use

CRCL concluded that FIPC did not document two chemicals that were being used on the Safety Data Sheets (SDS), which provides information on proper handling and procedures for chemical use. ICE agreed to update the SDS with these two additional chemicals.

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