



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Office of Professional Responsibility
ICE Inspections
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**Office of Detention Oversight
Special Review
2024-003-316**

**Enforcement and Removal Operations
ERO Detroit Field Office**

**Chippewa County SSM
Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan**

April 23-25, 2024

**SPECIAL REVIEW
of the
CHIPPEWA COUNTY SSM
Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan**

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SPECIAL REVIEW TEAM MEMBERS

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FACILITY OVERVIEW

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) Office of Detention Oversight (ODO) conducted a special review of the Chippewa County SSM (CCSSM) in Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan, from April 23 to 25, 2024.¹ The facility opened in 1954 and is owned by Chippewa County and operated by the Chippewa County Sheriff's Office. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at CCSSM in 2000 under the oversight of ERO's Field Office Director in Detroit (ERO Detroit). The facility operates under the National Detention Standard (NDS) 2019.

A facility administrator handles daily operations and manages [REDACTED] support personnel. TIGGS provides food services, Advanced Correctional Healthcare provides medical care, and Trinity Services provides commissary services at the facility. The facility does not hold any accreditations from any outside entities.

Capacity and Population Statistics	Quantity
ICE Bed Capacity. ²	[REDACTED]
Average ICE Population ³	[REDACTED]
Adult Male Population (as of April 23, 2024)	[REDACTED]
Adult Female Population (as of April 23, 2024)	[REDACTED]

During its last rated inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, ODO found 6 deficiencies in the following areas: Detention Files (1); Medical Care (2); Special Management Units (2); and Use of Force and Restraints (1).

¹ This facility holds male and female detainees with low, medium-low, medium-high, and high security classification levels for periods greater than 72 hours.

² Data Source: ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of April 15, 2024.

³ *Ibid.*

SPECIAL REVIEW PROCESS

ODO conducts oversight inspections of ICE detention facilities with an average daily population (ADP) of 10 or more, and where detainees are housed for over 72 hours, to assess compliance with ICE national detention standards. While these inspections focus on facility compliance with detention standards that directly affect detainee life, health, safety, and/or well-being, in FY 2024 ODO added additional standards to the scope of each full inspection to ensure ODO inspects every standard at each facility at least once every other year.⁴

ODO identifies violations of ICE detention standards, ICE policies, or operational procedures, as “deficiencies.” ODO highlights instances when the facility resolves deficiencies prior to completion of the ODO inspection. Where applicable, these corrective actions are annotated with “C” under the *Compliance Inspection Findings* section of this report.

In FY 2022, ODO began conducting special reviews of under 72-hour ICE detention facilities with an ADP of 1 or more detainees and over 72-hour ICE detention facilities with an ADP of 1 to 9 detainees. Additionally, ODO began conducting unannounced inspections of ICE detention facilities, regardless of ADP of detainees, as well as reviews of ICE special/emerging detention facilities/programs. As such, these facility inspections will result in an ODO Inspection Compliance Rating; however, for facilities that are not contractually obligated to an ICE NDS, those ratings will be for ERO’s informational purposes. ODO will conduct a complete review of several core standards, in accordance with the facility’s contractually required ICE NDS or in accordance with the ICE NDS listed in the current ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List for facilities that are not contractually obligated to an ICE NDS, which may include but are not limited to Medical Care/Health Care, Medical Care (Women)/Health Care (Females), Significant Self-harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention, Hunger Strikes, Food Service, Environmental Health and Safety, Special Management Units (SMU) or Hold Rooms (if the facility does not have an SMU), Use of Force and Restraints/Use of Physical Control Measures, and Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention.

Upon completion of each special review or unannounced inspection, ODO conducts a closeout briefing with facility and local ERO officials to discuss preliminary findings. A summary of these findings is shared with ERO management officials. Thereafter, ODO provides ICE leadership with a final compliance inspection report to: (i) assist ERO in developing and initiating uniform corrective action plans (UCAPs); and (ii) provide senior executives with an independent assessment of facility operations. ODO’s findings inform ICE executive management in their decision-making to better allocate resources across the agency’s entire detention inventory.

⁴ ODO reviews the facility’s compliance with selected standards in their entirety.

FINDINGS BY NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS 2019

MAJOR CATEGORIES

NDS 2019 Standards Inspected ^{5,6}	Deficiencies
Part 1 - Safety	
Environmental Health and Safety	1
Sub-Total	1
Part 2 - Security	
Use of Force and Restraints	0
Special Management Units	0
Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 4 - Care	
Food Service	0
Hunger Strikes	0
Medical Care	1
Significant Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention	0
Sub-Total	1
Part 6 - Justice	
Grievance System	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 7 - Administration and Management	
Detention Files	0
Sub-Total	0
Total Deficiencies	2

⁵ For greater detail on ODO's findings, see the *Special Review Findings* section of this report.

⁶ During a special review, ODO will review a facility's compliance with at least 10 individual standards.

DETAINEE RELATIONS

ODO interviewed seven detainees, who each voluntarily agreed to participate. One detainee made an allegation of mistreatment, which ODO discusses below. Most detainees reported satisfaction with facility services except for the concern listed below.

Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention: One detainee stated other detainees sexually harassed him in the dorm shower.

- **Action Taken:** A detainee informed ODO that another detainee exposed himself and made obscene gestures toward him in the dorm shower. The detainee stated he did not report the incident, and did not provide the name of the other detainee nor the date the incident happened. ODO immediately notified CCSSM's facility administrator and the ERO Detroit assistant field office director (AFOD) of the incident. On the same day, the Chippewa County Sheriff's Office opened an investigation, and the ERO Detroit AFOD reported the incident to the Joint Intake Center (JIC). The JIC issued case number 202408555. On April 23, 2024, the CCSSM's licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) completed a mental health evaluation of the detainee and cleared him to return to general population; however, since the detainee would not provide the name of the detainee alleged to have exposed himself, the LCSW reassigned the detainee to another housing unit for his safety and comfort, and instructed him to request follow-up sessions as needed.

SPECIAL REVIEW FINDINGS

SAFETY

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (EHS)

ODO reviewed the CCSSM's emergency plans and found no specific procedures to handle detainees with disabilities during an emergency response (**Deficiency EHS-25⁷**).

CARE

MEDICAL CARE (MC)

ODO reviewed █ detainee medical records and found in █ out of █ records, the facility prescribed medication to the detainees; however, between February 23 and March 26, 2024, ODO found 17 instances where the facility medical staff did not document in the written records issuing the medication to the detainees or the detainees refused the medication (**Deficiency MC-62⁸**). **This is a priority component.**

⁷ "Plans will include procedures for detainees with disabilities to ensure their safety and security during the facility response." See ICE NDS 2019, Standard, Environmental Health and Safety, Section (II)(B).

⁸ "Health care providers and officers shall keep written records of all medication given to (or refused by) detainees." See ICE NDS 2019, Standard, Medical Care, Section (II)(L).

CONCLUSION

During this special review, ODO assessed the facility's compliance with 10 standards under NDS 2019 and found the facility in compliance with 8 of those standards. ODO found two deficiencies in the remaining two standards. Since CCSSM's last special review in May 2023, the facility's compliance with NDS 2019 has improved. CCSSM went from 4 deficient standards and 6 deficiencies in May 2023 to 2 deficient standards and 2 deficiencies during this most recent special review, which included 1 priority component deficiency in the MC standard for not documenting issuing medications to detainees or if the detainee refused the medication. ODO did not receive a UCAP for the special review conducted in May 2023 and was unable to assess what effect the facility's UCAP had on its current performance; however, ODO notes the facility had no repeat deficiencies. ODO recommends ERO Detroit continue to work with the facility to resolve the deficiencies that remain outstanding in accordance with contractual obligations.

Compliance Inspection Results Compared	FY 2023 Special Review NDS 2019	FY 2024 Special Review NDS 2019
Standards Reviewed	10	10
Deficient Standards	4	2
Overall Number of Deficiencies	6	2
Priority Component Deficiencies	0	1
Repeat Deficiencies	1	0
Areas Of Concern	0	0
Corrective Actions	0	0
Facility Rating	Good	Good