

Office of Professional Responsibility

Elizabeth Contract Detention Facility Inspection 2025-004-022

December 3-5, 2024



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement



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
Unannounced Compliance Inspection
2025-004-022**

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

**Elizabeth Contract Detention Facility
Elizabeth, New Jersey**

December 3-5, 2024

UNANNOUNCED COMPLIANCE INSPECTION
of the
ELIZABETH CONTRACT DETENTION FACILITY
Elizabeth, New Jersey

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COMPLIANCE INSPECTION 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 an unannounced compliance inspection of the Elizabeth Contract Detention Facility (ECDF) in Elizabeth, New Jersey, from December 3 to 5, 2024.¹ The facility opened in 1997 and is owned by Port View Property and operated by CoreCivic. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at ECDF in 1997 under the oversight of ERO’s Field Office Director in Newark (ERO Newark). The facility operates under the Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS) 2011 (Revised 2016).

[REDACTED] A warden handles daily facility operations and manages [REDACTED] support personnel. CoreCivic provides food services, ICE Health Service Corps provides medical care, and Keefe Commissary provides commissary services at the facility. The facility was accredited by the American Correctional Association in June 2022. In September 2023, ECDF was audited for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and was DHS PREA certified.

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

During its last rated inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, ODO found 7 deficiencies in the following areas: Custody Classification System (2); Facility Security and Control (1); Funds and Personal Property (1); and Post Orders (3).

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

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

³ *Ibid.*

UNANNOUNCED COMPLIANCE INSPECTION 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 PERFORMANCE-BASED NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS 2011 (REVISED 2016) MAJOR CATEGORIES

PBNDs 2011 (Revised 2016) Standards Inspected ^{5,6,7}	Deficiencies
Part 1 - Safety	
Emergency Plans	0
Environmental Health and Safety	0
Transportation (by Land)	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 2 - Security	
Admission and Release	0
Custody Classification System	0
Contraband	0
Funds and Personal Property	0
Hold Rooms in Detention Facilities	0
Key and Lock Control	1
Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention	0
Special Management Units	0
Staff-Detainee Communication	0
Tool Control	0
Use of Force and Restraints	0
Sub-Total	1
Part 3 - Order	
Disciplinary System	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 4 - Care	
Food Service	0
Medical Care	0
Medical Care (Women)	0
Significant Self-harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention	0
Terminal Illness, Advance Directives and Death	0
Disability Identification, Assessment, and Accommodation	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 5 - Activities	
Recreation	0

⁵ For greater detail on ODO's findings, see the *Unannounced Compliance Inspection Findings* section of this report.

⁶ Beginning in FY 2024, ODO instituted a process of rotating all standards every other year. As a result, some standards may not be present in all inspections.

⁷ During an unannounced inspection, ODO will review a facility's compliance with at least 10 individual standards; however, unannounced full inspections will include a review of the same standards as announced full inspections.

Visitation	1
Sub-Total	1
Part 6 - Justice	
Detainee Handbook	0
Grievance System	0
Legal Rights Group Presentations	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 7 - Administration and Management	
Interview and Tours	0
Staff Training	0
Sub-Total	0
Total Deficiencies	2

DETAINEE RELATIONS

ODO interviewed 29 detainees, who each voluntarily agreed to participate. ODO requested to interview six additional detainees; however, all six detainees declined ODO’s request for an interview. None of the detainees made allegations of discrimination, mistreatment, or abuse. All 29 detainees reported satisfaction with facility services.

UNANNOUNCED COMPLIANCE INSPECTION FINDINGS

SECURITY

KEY AND LOCK CONTROL (KLC)

ODO interviewed the key control officer, reviewed the lock shop inventory, and found the facility did not inventory unassigned padlocks (**Deficiency KLC-38**⁸).

ACTIVITIES

VISITATION (V)

ODO reviewed the facility’s legal visitation policy and found the policy did not address pre-representational meetings, confidential group legal meetings, nor detainee sign-up (**Deficiency V-102**⁹).

⁸ “Lock shop inventories shall include, at a minimum, the following: ...

c. All unassigned padlocks;”

See ICE PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016), Standard, Key and Lock Control, Section (V)(C)(1)(c).

⁹ “The site-specific policy shall specify visitation hours, procedures and standards and address, at a minimum, the following: ...

d. pre-representational meetings; ...

i. confidential group legal meetings; and

j. detainee sign-up.”

See ICE PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016), Standard, Visitation, Section (V)(J)(15)(d)(i)(j).

CONCLUSION

During this unannounced compliance inspection, ODO assessed the facility's compliance with 28 standards under PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016) and found the facility in compliance with 26 of those standards. ODO found two deficiencies in the remaining two standards. Since ECDF's last rated inspection in November 2023, the facility's overall compliance has trended upward. ECDF went from 4 deficient standards and 7 deficiencies in October 2023 to 2 deficient standards and 2 deficiencies during this most recent inspection. A UCAP was not required for ODO's last inspection of ECDF, which occurred in April 2024. ODO recommends ERO Newark continue to work with the facility to resolve the remaining deficiencies in accordance with contractual obligations.

Compliance Inspection Results Compared	FY 2024 Full Inspection (PBNDS 2011) (Revised 2016)	FY 2025 Full Inspection (PBNDS 2011) (Revised 2016)
Standards Reviewed	29	28
Deficient Standards	4	2
Overall Number of Deficiencies	7	2
Priority Component Deficiencies	0	0
Repeat Deficiencies	0	0
Areas Of Concern	0	0
Corrective Actions	0	0
Facility Rating	Good	Superior



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