

Office of Professional Responsibility

Elmore County Jail Inspection 2024-003-425

August 20–22, 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
Washington, DC 20536-5501

Office of Detention Oversight
Special Review
2024-003-425

Enforcement and Removal Operations
ERO Salt Lake City Field Office

Elmore County Jail
Mountain Home, Idaho

August 20-22, 2024

**SPECIAL REVIEW
of the
ELMORE COUNTY JAIL
Mountain Home, Idaho**

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SPECIAL REVIEW TEAM MEMBERS



Team Lead
Inspections and Compliance Specialist
Contractor
Contractor

ODO
ODO
Creative Corrections
Creative Corrections

FACILITY OVERVIEW

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) Office of Detention Oversight (ODO) attempted to conduct a special review of the Elmore County Jail (ECJ) in Mountain Home, Idaho, from August 20 to 22, 2024.¹ ECJ opened in 1990 and is owned and operated by the Elmore County Sheriff’s Office. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at ECJ in 2009 under the oversight of ERO’s Field Office Director in Salt Lake City (ERO Salt Lake City). ICE is an authorized user of this facility under a United States Marshals Service Intergovernmental Agreement contract, which does not specify an ICE National Detention Standard (NDS). ODO intended to inspect to NDS 2019, which is listed on the ERO Facility List as of August 12, 2024. ODO’s assigned rating is for ERO’s informational purposes only.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] An Elmore County Sheriff’s lieutenant handles daily facility operations and manages support personnel. Summit Foods provides food services, Sawtooth Correctional Health provides medical care, and Victus Commissary provides commissary services at the facility. ECJ does not hold any accreditations from any outside entities.

Capacity and Population Statistics	Quantity
ICE Detainee Bed Capacity ²	[REDACTED]
Average ICE Detainee Population ³	[REDACTED]
Male Detainee Population (as of August 20, 2024)	[REDACTED]
Female Detainee Population (as of August 20, 2024)	[REDACTED]

During its last rated inspection, in FY 2023, ODO found 20 deficiencies in the following areas: Food Service (3); Environmental Health and Safety (13); Medical Care (2); and Suicide Prevention and Intervention (2).

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 August 12, 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 also highlights instances in which 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 its 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.

CONCLUSION

ODO attempted to conduct an on-site special review of ECJ; however, on August 7, 2024, ECJ notified ERO Salt Lake City it refused this ODO-scheduled, on-site special review. ECJ's refusal of the ODO special review resulted in ODO marking all line items that would have been inspected as deficient and assigning a facility rating of "Failure" to this inspection. This report is the second consecutive report in which ODO assigned a facility rating of "Failure." ODO recommends ERO discontinue its use of ECJ until the facility permits and passes a full compliance inspection.

Compliance Inspection Results Compared	FY 2023 Special Review (NDS 2000)/ (NDS 2019)	FY 2024 Special Review (NDS 2019)
Facility Rating	Failure	Failure



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