

Office of Professional Responsibility

**Pinellas County Jail
Inspection 2024-003-434**

September 24-26, 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
2024-003-434

Enforcement and Removal Operations
ERO Miami Field Office

Pinellas County Jail
Clearwater, Florida

September 24-26, 2024

**SPECIAL REVIEW
of the
PINELLAS COUNTY JAIL
Clearwater, Florida**

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██████████	Contractor	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 Pinellas County Jail (PCJ) in Clearwater, Florida, from September 24 to 26, 2024.¹ PCJ opened in 1998 and is owned and operated by the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at PCJ in 2009 under the oversight of ERO’s Field Office Director in Miami (ERO Miami). 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), and ODO inspected to the NDS listed on the ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of September 3, 2024. ODO intended to inspect to NDS 2019, which is listed on the ERO Facility List as of September 16, 2024. ODO’s assigned rating is for ERO’s informational purposes only.

A Pinellas County Sheriff’s colonel handles daily facility operations and manages support personnel. Naphcare provides medical care and Aramark Correctional Services provides food and commissary services at the facility. The facility was accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement in March 2020, the American Correctional Association in November 2021, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care in August 2022, and the Florida Model Jail Standard in June 2023. In November 2021, PCJ was audited for the Department of Justice (DOJ) Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and was DOJ PREA certified.

Capacity and Population Statistics	Quantity
ICE Bed Capacity ²	█
Average ICE Population ³	█
Adult Male Population (as of September 24, 2024)	█
Adult Female Population (as of September 24, 2024)	█

During its last special review inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, ODO found 6 deficiencies in the following areas: Environmental Health and Safety (1); Food Service (2); and Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention (3).

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

² Data Source: ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of September 16, 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 *Special Review 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.

CONCLUSION

ODO attempted to conduct a special review of PCJ; however, on September 20, 2024, PCJ notified ERO Miami they refused ODO's scheduled special review. PCJ'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 is the first inspection for PCJ that ODO assigned a facility rating of "Failure." ODO recommends ERO Miami try obtain the facility's compliance with ODO inspections and if the facility continues to refuse, discontinue its use of PCJ until PCJ permits and passes an ODO compliance inspection.

Compliance Inspection Results Compared	FY 2023 Special Review (NDS 2019)	FY 2024 Special Review (NDS 2019)
Standards Reviewed	10	N/A
Deficient Standards	3	N/A
Overall Number of Deficiencies	6	N/A
Priority Component Deficiencies	0	N/A
Repeat Deficiencies	N/A	N/A
Areas Of Concern	1	N/A
Corrective Actions	0	N/A
Facility Rating	Superior	Failure



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