Office of Professional Responsibility

Gaston County Jail

Refused Inspection Report 2026-003-091

July 29-30, 2026

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

REFUSED INSPECTION REPORT
of the
Gaston County Jail
Gastonia, North Carolina

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FACILITY OVERVIEW

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) Office of Detention Oversight (ODO) attempted to conduct an inspection of the Gaston County Jail (GCJ) in Gastonia, North Carolina, from July 29 to 30, 2026.[1,2] The facility opened in 1999 and is owned by Gaston County and operated by the Gaston County Sheriff's Office. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at GCJ in 2007 under the oversight of ERO's Field Office Director in Atlanta (ERO Atlanta). The facility is a non-dedicated ICE detention facility and operates under National Detention Standards (NDS) 2019.

ERO deportation officers are not assigned full-time to the facility but conduct unscheduled weekly visits, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. A jail administrator handles daily facility operations. Carolina Correctional Health provides medical care.[3] In April 2026, GCJ was audited for the Department of Justice (DOJ) Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and was found DOJ PREA compliant.

Capacity and Population Statistics	Quantity
ICE Bed Capacity[4]	(b)(7)(e)
Average ICE Population[5]	(b)(7)(e)
Adult Male Population (as of July 28, 2026)	(b)(7)
Adult Female Population (as of July 28, 2026)	(b)(7)

This was ODO's first inspection of GCJ.

[1] This facility holds male and female detainees with low, medium-low, medium-high, and high security classification levels for periods under than 72 hours.
[2] This inspection was initially scheduled for December 2025 but was rescheduled at the facility's request due to its low average ICE population.
[3] ODO was not provided the food or commissary providers for GCJ.
[4] Data Source: ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of July 23, 2026.
[5] *Ibid.*

INSPECTION PROCESS

ODO conducts the following annual and biennial oversight inspections of ICE detention facilities to assess and rate each facility's compliance with their contractually obligated detention standards as noted in the Facility Overview section above.

- Dedicated facility: ODO conducts annual on-site inspections of dedicated inter-governmental service agreement (IGSA) facilities, contract detention facilities (CDF), family residential centers, and service processing centers.

- Non-dedicated IGSA facility:
  - For facilities with an average daily population (ADP) of 50 or more, ODO conducts biennial on-site inspections.
  - For facilities with an ADP of 50 less,
    - If the facility has not previously had a rated ODO inspection, then ODO conducts an initial on-site inspection, and
    - If the facility has had an ODO inspection, then the facility completes a biennial ODO-assisted self-inspection process (OASIP).

- U.S. Marshals Service (USMS): USMS CDF and intergovernmental agreement facilities complete biennial OASIPs.

In FY 2025, ODO implemented OASIPs, which replaced the annual Special Review inspections ODO conducted at most low ADP and/or short-term use facilities. This new inspection framework is more reflective of the actual operation demand of facilities with a low ADP and/or short-term use. OASIP inspections focus on facility compliance with detention standard requirements that directly affect detainee life, health, safety, and/or well-being. Facilities have 30 calendar days to complete the OASIP inspection and ODO staff will go on-site for 1 day towards the end of the 30-day inspection window to observe facility conditions, interview ICE detainees, and spot-check the facility's reported findings.[6]

ODO defines a "deficiency" as any violation of detention standards, policies, or operational procedures, as applicable. ODO highlights instances when the facility resolves deficiencies prior to the completion of the ODO inspection as corrective actions. Where applicable, these corrective actions are annotated with a "C" in the *Inspection Findings* section of the report.

Upon completion of each inspection, ODO conducts a closeout briefing with facility and local ERO officials to discuss preliminary findings. ODO shares a summary of these findings with ERO management officials. Thereafter, ODO provides ICE leadership with a final report to: (i) assist ERO in developing and initiating a uniform corrective action plan (UCAP); 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.

[6] When ODO conducts on-site inspections for non-OASIP facilities, the facility is notified 4 weeks before the inspection and ODO is on-site for 2-3 business days conducting the inspection.

CONCLUSION

ODO attempted to conduct an on-site inspection of GCJ; however, on July 28, 2026, GCJ notified ERO Atlanta it refused this ODO-scheduled, on-site inspection. GCJ's refusal of the ODO inspection resulted in ODO marking all line items of the inspection as deficient, resulting in ODO's rating of "Failure" for the facility. ODO recommends ERO Atlanta coordinate with GCJ to reschedule an inspection.

Inspection Results Compared	No Previous ODO Inspection	FY 2026 Full Inspection (NDS 2019)
Standards Reviewed	N/A	10
Deficient Standards	N/A	10
Overall Number of Deficiencies	N/A	43
Priority Component Deficiencies	N/A	0
Repeat Deficiencies	N/A	N/A
Areas Of Concern	N/A	0
Corrective Actions	N/A	0
Facility Rating	N/A	Failure

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