Office of Professional Responsibility

Kenton County Jail

Inspection 2026-006-101

July 7, 2026

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

INSPECTION
of the
KENTON COUNTY JAIL
Covington, Kentucky

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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 inspection of the Kenton County Jail (KCJ) in Covington, Kentucky, from June 10 to July 9, 2026, which included a 1-day on site visit on July 7, 2026..[1] The facility opened in 2010 and is owned and operated by Kenton County. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at KCJ in 1996 under the oversight of ERO's Field Office Director in Chicago (ERO Chicago). The facility is a United States Marshal Service (USMS) contracted detention facility where ICE is an authorized user and operates under the USMS Federal Performance Based Detention Standards (FPBDS) (May 2025).

ERO deportation officers are not assigned full-time to the facility but conduct visits as needed on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. A County Jailer handles daily facility operations and manages (b)(7)(e) support personnel. Kenton County Jail provides food services, Comprehensive Correctional Care provides medical care, and Care A Cell 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]	(b)(7)(e)
Average ICE Population.[3]	(b)(7)(e)
Adult Male Population (as of July 7, 2026)	(b)(7)(e)
Adult Female Population (as of July 7, 2026)	(b)(7)(e)

This was ODO's first inspection of KCJ.

[1] This facility holds male 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 July 2, 2026.
[3] *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 or 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. Marshal 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.[4]

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 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] 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.

FINDINGS BY FEDERAL PERFORMANCE BASED DETENTION STANDARDS (MAY 2025) MAJOR CATEGORIES

USMS FPBDS (May 2025) Standards Inspected	Deficiencies
Part 1 - Administration and Management	
Quality Control	0
Facility Admission and Orientation Program	0
Detainee Transfers and Releases	0
Staffing	0
Staff Training	1
Emergency Plans	0
Sub-Total	**1**
Part 2 - Health Care	
Health Care Administration	0
Intake Health Screening	0
Medical, Mental Health, and Dental Appraisals	0
Access to Health Care	0
Provision of Health Care	0
Incident Health Care	0
Sub-Total	**0**
Part 3 - Security and Control	
Use of Force/Non-Routine Application of Restraints	0
Sub-Total	**0**
Part 4 - Food Service	
Food Service Administration	0
Food Storage and Preparation	0
Detainee Meals and Special Diets	0
Sub-Total	**0**
Part 6 - Safety and Sanitation	
Fire Safety and Chemical Control	0
Sanitation and Environmental Control	0
Clothing and Bedding	0
Sub-Total	**0**
Part 7 - Services and Programs	
Classification and Housing	0
Grievance Program	0
Sub-Total	**0**
Total Deficiencies	**1**

DETAINEE RELATIONS

ODO interviewed seven detainees, who each voluntarily agreed to participate. None of the detainees made allegations of discrimination, mistreatment, or abuse. All detainees reported satisfaction with facility services.

INSPECTION FINDINGS

ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

STAFF TRAINING (ST)

ODO reviewed the staff training policy and procedures and found there was no written policy which required all correctional officers to receive annual training on sexual abuse and assault **(Deficiency ST-2[5])**.

CONCLUSION

During this inspection, ODO assessed the facility's compliance with 21 standards under USMS FPBDS (May 2025) and found the facility in compliance with 20 of those standards. ODO found 1 deficiency in the remaining standard. This was ODO's first inspection of KCJ so prior inspection data does not exist for ODO to perform a trend analysis. ODO recommends ERO Chicago continue to work with the facility to resolve the deficiency that remains outstanding in accordance with contractual obligations.

Inspection Results Compared	No Previous ODO Inspection	FY 2026 USMS FPBDS (May 2025)
Standards Reviewed	N/A	21
Deficient Standards	N/A	1
Overall Number of Deficiencies	N/A	1
Priority Component Deficiencies	N/A	N/A
Repeat Deficiencies	N/A	N/A
Areas Of Concern	N/A	0
Corrective Actions	N/A	0
Facility Rating	N/A	Superior

[5] "Written policy, procedure, and practice provide that all correctional officers receive at least 40 hours of annual training. This training includes at a minimum the following areas: ...
c. Supervision of offenders including training on sexual abuse and assault." *See* ICE USMS FPBDS (May 2025), Standard, Staff Training, Section A.10.6.c.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

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