Office of Professional Responsibility

Kandiyohi County Jail

Inspection 2026-001-120

July 21-23, 2026

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

INSPECTION
of the
KANDIYOHI COUNTY JAIL
Willmar, Minnesota

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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 Kandiyohi County Jail (KCJ) in Willmar, Minnesota, from July 21 to 23, 2026.[1] The facility opened in 2001 and is owned by Kandiyohi County and operated by Kandiyohi County Sheriff office. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at KCJ in 1992.[2] under the oversight of ERO's Field Office Director in Saint Paul (ERO Saint Paul). 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 monthly visits, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. A facility administrator handles daily facility operations and manages [redacted] support personnel. Skillet Kitchen provides food services, Advanced Correctional Healthcare provides medical care, and Turnkey Corrections 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.[3]	[redacted]
Average ICE Population.[4]	[redacted]
Adult Male Population (as of July 21, 2026)	[redacted]
Adult Female Population (as of July 21, 2026)	[redacted]

During its last inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, ODO found 4 deficiencies in the following areas: Hold Rooms in Detention Facilities (2); and Sexual Abuse and Assault 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] ERO Saint Paul held detainees at the old KCJ until the new facility opened in 2001.
[3] Data Source: ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of July 16, 2026.
[4] *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 find.[5]

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.

[5] 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 NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS 2019 MAJOR CATEGORIES

NDS 2019 Standards Inspected[6]	Deficiencies
Part 1 - Safety	
Environmental Health and Safety	0
Transportation by Land	0
Sub-Total	**0**
Part 2 - Security	
Admission and Release	0
Custody Classification System	0
Facility Security and Control	0
Funds and Personal Property	0
Hold Rooms in Detention Facilities	0
Post Orders	0
Searches of Detainees	0
Use of Force and Restraints	0
Special Management Units	0
Staff-Detainee Communication	1
Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention	0
Sub-Total	**1**
Part 3 - Order	
Disciplinary System	0
Sub-Total	**0**
Part 4 - Care	
Food Service	0
Hunger Strikes	1
Medical Care	0
Personal Hygiene	0
Significant Self-harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention	0
Terminal Illness and Death	0
Disability Identification, Assessment, and Accommodation	0
Sub-Total	**1**
Part 5 - Activities	
Correspondence and Other Mail	0
Recreation	0
Religious Practices	0
Telephone Access	1
Visitation	2
Voluntary Work Program	0

[6] For greater detail on ODO's findings, see the *Inspection Findings* section of this report.

Sub-Total	**3**
Part 6 - Justice	
Detainee Handbook	0
Grievance System	0
Law Libraries and Legal Material	0
Legal Rights Group Presentations	0
Sub-Total	**0**
Part 7 - Administration and Management	
Detention Files	0
Detainee Transfers	0
Sub-Total	**0**
Total Deficiencies	**5**

DETAINEE RELATIONS

ODO interviewed 23 detainees who each voluntarily agreed to participate. None of the detainees made allegations of discrimination, mistreatment, or abuse. Most detainees reported satisfaction with facility services except for the concern listed below.

Telephone Access: Two detainees stated they could not reach anyone listed on the pro bono legal services lines.

- Action Taken: ODO reviewed KCJ's detainee handbook and the slides on the housing unit televisions (TV), and found the facility last updated the pro bono list in the facility detainee handbook in 2024, while the list on the TV was from 2025. ODO cited these as deficiencies in the *Telephone Access* and *Visitation* sections of the report below. Further, on July 22, 2026, ODO provided the facility with the updated July 2026 pro bono list, and facility staff updated the pro bono slides on the TV and began adding the information to newly issued facility detainee handbooks. Also, ODO informed the detainees of the updated pro bono lists.

INSPECTION FINDINGS

SECURITY

STAFF-DETAINEE COMMUNICATION (SDC)

ODO reviewed the facility detainee handbook, and the TV slide shows in the housing units and found the facility did not provide detainees with contact information for ICE/ERO **(Deficiency SDC-22.[7])**.

[7] "The facility shall provide contact information for ICE/ERO and the scheduled hours and days that ICE/ERO staff is available to be contacted by detainees at the facility." *See* ICE NDS 2019, Standard, Staff-Detainee Communication, Section (II)(C)(4).

CARE

HUNGER STRIKES (HS)

ODO reviewed 25 training records of non-medical staff and found in 25 out of 25 records, no documentation which verified the facility trained non-medical staff initially and annually on hunger strikes **(Deficiency HS-1[8])**.

ACTIVITIES

TELEPHONE ACCESS (TA)

ODO found ERO Saint Paul did not provide the facility with the current pro bono legal services information. Instead, the information provided in the TV slide show was from 2025 **(Deficiency TA-13[9])**.

> *Corrective Action:* On July 22, 2026, ODO provided a copy of the current pro bono legal services information to the facility, and the facility added the information to the facility TV slide show **(C-1)**.

VISITATION (V)

ODO observed the TV slide show for the electronic postings in all housing units for the pro bono legal services and found ERO Saint Paul did not provide the facility with the official list of pro bono legal services providers on a regular basis. Instead, the list provided in the TV slide show was from 2025 **(Deficiency V-68[10])**.

> *Corrective Action:* On July 22, 2026, ODO provided a copy of the current pro bono legal services list to the facility, and the facility added the list to the facility TV slide show **(C-2)**.

ODO observed the TV slide show for the electronic postings in all housing units for the pro bono legal services lists and found the facility did not post the current list of pro bono legal service providers. Instead, the list provided in the TV slide show was from 2025 **(Deficiency V-69[11])**.

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[8] "All staff shall be trained initially and annually thereafter to recognize the signs of a hunger strike, and to implement the procedures for referral for medical assessment and for management of a detainee on a hunger strike." *See* ICE NDS 2019, Standard, Hunger Strikes, Section (II)(A).

[9] "All Field Offices are responsible for ensuring facilities which house ICE detainees under their jurisdiction are provided with current pro bono legal service information." *See* ICE NDS 2019, Standard, Telephone Access, Section (II)(E).

[10] "ICE/ERO shall provide the facility with the official list of pro bono legal services providers on a regular basis." *See* ICE NDS 2019, Standard, Visitation, Section (II)(G)(13).

[11] "The facility shall post the current list in detainee housing units and other appropriate areas" *See* ICE NDS 2019, Standard, Visitation, Section (II)(G)(13).

Corrective Action: On July 22, 2026, ODO provided a copy of the current pro bono legal services list to the facility, and the facility added the list to the facility TV slide show **(C-3)**.

CONCLUSION

During this inspection, ODO assessed the facility's compliance with 33 standards under NDS 2019 and found the facility in compliance with 29 of those standards. ODO found 5 deficiencies in 4 standards. Since KCJ's last inspection in March 2025, the facility has maintained a consistent level of compliance with NDS 2019. KCJ went from 2 deficient standards and 4 deficiencies in March 2025 to 4 deficient standards and 6 deficiencies during this most recent inspection. ODO received KCJ's completed UCAP for its last inspection in March 2025, which likely resolved previous deficiencies ODO cited. ODO recommends ERO Saint Paul continue to work with the facility to resolve the deficiencies that remain outstanding in accordance with contractual obligations.

Inspection Results Compared	FY 2025 (NDS 2019)	FY 2026 (NDS 2019)
Standards Reviewed	21	33
Deficient Standards	2	4
Overall Number of Deficiencies	4	5
Priority Component Deficiencies	1	0
Repeat Deficiencies	0	0
Areas Of Concern	0	0
Corrective Actions	0	3
Facility Rating	Good	Good

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