Office of Professional Responsibility

Walton County Jail

Inspection 2026-006-149

July 21, 2026

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

INSPECTION
of the
WALTON COUNTY JAIL
Defuniak Springs, Florida

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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 Walton County Jail (WCJ) in Defuniak Springs, Florida, from June 24 to July 23, 2026, which included a 1-day on site visit on July 21, 2026..[1] The facility opened in 1987 and is owned and operated by Walton County. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at WCJ in 2025 under the oversight of ERO's Field Office Director in Miami (ERO Miami). 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 has deportation officers assigned full-time to the facility. They are on-site Sunday through Saturday, from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. A captain handles daily facility operations and manages (b)(7)(e) support personnel. WCJ provides food services and medical care, and Stewart Distribution provides commissary services at the facility. The facility was accredited by both the Florida Model Jail Standards and the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission in February 2010.

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 21, 2026)	(b)(7)(e)
Adult Female Population (as of July 21, 2026)	(b)(7)(e)

This was ODO's first inspection of WCJ.

[1] This facility holds male detainees with low, medium-low, medium-high, and high security classification levels for periods under 72 hours.
[2] Data Source: ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of July 16, 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 plan (UCAP); 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] 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 BYFEDERAL PERFORMANCE BASED DETENTION STANDARD (MAY 2025) MAJOR CATEGORIES

USMS FPBDS (May 2025) Standards Inspected[5]	Deficiencies
Part 1 - Administration and Management	
Quality Control	0
Facility Admission and Orientation Program	0
Detainee Transfers and Releases	0
Staffing	0
Staff Training	0
Emergency Plans	0
Sub-Total	**0**
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	**0**

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

DETAINEE RELATIONS

ODO interviewed eight 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

ODO found no deficiencies during this inspection.

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 all 21 standards. This was ODO's first inspection of WCJ so prior inspection data does not exist for ODO to perform a trend analysis. ODO recommends ERO Miami continue to work with the facility in accordance with contractual obligations.

Inspection Results Compared	Previous ODO Inspection	FY 2026 (USMS FPBDS (May 2025))
Standards Reviewed	N/A	21
Deficient Standards	N/A	0
Overall Number of Deficiencies	N/A	0
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

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