



Homeland
Security

February 6, 2023

Katie Blankenship
American Civil Liberties Union of Florida
4343 West Flagler Street, Suite 400
Miami, FL 33134

Re: Complaint No. 005139-23-ICE

Dear Ms. Blankenship:

On November 2, 2022, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) received your complaint regarding potential civil rights and civil liberties violations at the Baker County Detention Center (Baker) in MacClenny, Florida. Thank you for contacting DHS with your concerns.

Under 6 U.S.C. § 345 and 42 U.S.C. § 2000ee-1, CRCL reviews and assesses information concerning abuses of civil rights, civil liberties, and profiling on the basis of race, ethnicity, or religion, by employees and officials of DHS. CRCL also reviews allegations that DHS employees, programs, or activities failed to accommodate an individual's disability under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 794.

In your complaint, you alleged ongoing Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) violations requiring immediate attention. Specifically, you alleged a pattern of "unlawful voyeurism and cross-gender viewing at Baker that specifically targets female immigrants" in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at Baker. CRCL identified similar concerns during an onsite investigation at Baker in September 2022, prior to your submission. CRCL investigated and substantiated the PREA concerns at Baker and worked with ICE and Baker to take meaningful corrective action. At this time, CRCL is satisfied that appropriate action has been taken to address the PREA concerns. Accordingly, CRCL is closing this complaint as of the date of this letter.

We appreciate your bringing this matter to our attention. Inquiries like yours help DHS meet its obligation to protect civil rights and civil liberties. If in the future you have concerns relating to civil rights and civil liberties violations by DHS, please contact CRCL.

Sincerely,

Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
U.S. Department of Homeland Security