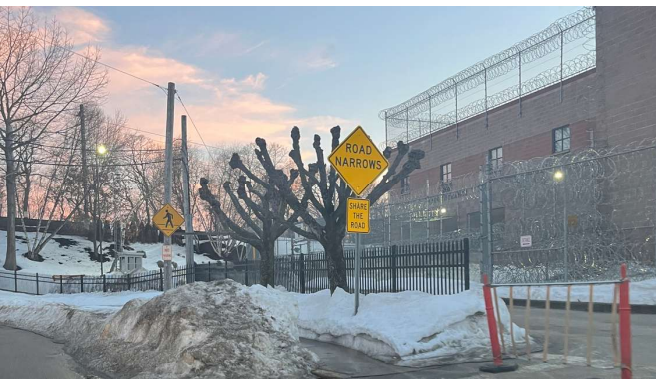




MARCH 2026



REPORT ON ICE DETENTION AT THE WYATT DETENTION FACILITY

CENTRAL FALLS, RI

Dear Community,

This report includes data and excerpts from Office of Detention Oversight inspections at the Wyatt Detention Facility in Central Falls, RI since the current ICE contract began in 2019. These inspections reveal an ongoing pattern of negligence, and yet they tell only part of the story.

In our correspondence with people detained by ICE at the Wyatt Detention Facility over the past year, we have heard time and again accounts of ongoing unsafe and unjust conditions. In this report, we lift up the voices of the people directly impacted, who have offered us a fuller picture of the conditions inside the Wyatt.

We ask Rhode Islanders to respond by supporting **Senate Bill S-2278** and **House Bill HB-7436** in the current legislative session to **end ICE detention in Rhode Island**.

In Solidarity,
AMOR Community Response Team

above photo: February 28, 2025 outside the Wyatt

“ I’m asking you if you can do something for us, please help to resolve this problem, because I did my maximum, asked everybody, and still didn’t get the answers.

— Message received February 2026

”

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Hunger and Food Service Violations

ICE is required to provide sufficient, safe food for the people they detain. However, AMOR regularly hears from people detained at the Wyatt that they are not receiving enough to eat.

This winter, AMOR has received reports that people who are Muslim and don't eat pork are not given other options and starve.

“ I've been in custody in the Wyatt Detention Facility for more then six months, and since the first day in this jail I haven't eaten meat at all, because my religion is Islam, I can't to eat regular meals, for us it's should be Halal or Kosher (it's a religious diet).

I sent a request to the program director of this facility, and after that I got a meal which they called "Kosher" but it's not real food for humans, there is not any kind

”

of meat. Everything is the same, usually we get some plastic bags without any explanation of what it is. There is not information about ingredients, with the simple words we even don't know what we are eating.

After eating this food we feel very bad. It makes our stomach hurt, and our body feel weak, no energy and power. I think this is discrimination because for regular meals they have a lot a different kinds of food with meat with everything.

I was reading the book of rules for this detention facility. They write there that they have this diet Halal, but they don't provide it for us.

— Message received February 2026

Previous food service violations recorded by the Office of Detention Oversight during inspections of the Wyatt Detention Facility include:

2020

"Nine out of twelve detainees alleged the meals served were repetitive and the portions were small." (Source: ODO Compliance Inspection, Wyatt Detention Center, October 2020, page 7)

2021

"Four out of seven detainees stated the meals served were cold or of poor quality and the portions were small." (Source: ODO Compliance Inspection, Wyatt Detention Center, May 2021, page 7)

2025

In the first two weeks of March 2025, AMOR received messages from **16 people detained** by ICE who specified that they **would not have enough to eat** without help purchasing food from the Commissary.

“ The food they cook is not enough in size and sometimes I'm still hungry after I already ate, and not having money to buy snacks or order commissary makes life even harder in this place.

— Message received March 2025

”

Unsafe Drinking Water

AMOR has received reports this winter from a number of people detained by ICE at the Wyatt who have said that **the water is making them sick**. They report **stomach aches, nausea, and diarrhea** after drinking it.

They do not have sufficient options outside of the unsafe tap water. We are told that there are only 10-20 bottles of water available each day at the commissary and sometimes several bottles available at unit vending machines, but they cost \$2 each, and there is nowhere near enough for everyone.

As of November 2025, there were 110 people detained by ICE and 643 people detained total at the Wyatt. (Source: Central Falls Detention Facility Corporation Minutes, November 17, 2025)

People detained shared with AMOR experiencing sickness from the tap water at the Wyatt explained the situation and asked for clean water from a nurse and their unit officer. **The Wyatt staff members did not believe them**: They said the filter on the faucet in the common room was changed recently, so they did not believe that the water was bad.

The situation is so dire that some detainees who were able to get ice tried to melt it in empty chip bags, to see if the water from the ice would be a better quality, but it wasn't— it also gave them the same symptoms.

Some of them have gone **3-4 days at a time without enough water or fluids** because of this problem or choose to drink milk to sustain themselves.

Medical Neglect

For many years, there have been alarming reports of medical neglect at the Wyatt. This includes harrowing accounts of the incidents in 2008 that led to the death of Hiu Lui “Jason” Ng due to medical abuse from prison staff. (Source: ACLU Press Release, “Rhode Island ACLU Files Lawsuit On Behalf Of Family Of Wyatt Center Detainee Who Died In Custody”, February 9, 2009)

After this tragedy, ICE canceled its contract with the Wyatt, but entered into a contract again in 2019. Since then, people detained by ICE at the Wyatt have continued to share stories of inadequate medical care and dangerous negligence.

ICE facility inspections by the Office of Detention Oversight show a similar pattern of ongoing deficiencies, especially in relation to medical care.

- Since 2019, almost every inspection showed evidence of **medical staff practicing without appropriate credentials or training**.
- The inspections include multiple reports from people detained who shared that their **requests for medical care went unattended, had a delayed response, or received an inadequate treatment**.
- Most inspections also reported that mandatory health assessments and screenings were not done within the required time frames.
- In March 2023, ODO reviewed three files for people detained who had been identified as at risk for suicide or mental health issues. Despite policies for performing a mental health evaluation within 24 hours and welfare checks every 8 hours, all three went **several days before receiving the appropriate mental health evaluations or welfare checks**.
- In September 2023, the inspection revealed that medical staff were not keeping records of medications issued.

(Source: ODO Compliance Inspections, Wyatt Detention Center, 2019-2024)

Below are a few examples of inspection findings revealing deficiencies in medical care:

2021

MEDICAL CARE (MC)

ODO reviewed █ health care credential files and found in █ out of █ files, health care staff did not have valid certifications. Specifically, three health care staff did not have cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid certifications (**Deficiency MC-11⁹**).

ODO reviewed █ detainee medical records and found in █ out of █ records, medical staff did not conduct comprehensive health assessments within 14 days of the detainees' arrival at the facility. Specifically, a health care provider completed health assessments between 16 to 45 days of the detainees' arrival at the facility (**Deficiency MC-27¹⁰**).

(Source: ODO Compliance Inspection, Wyatt Detention Center, November 2021, page 7)

2023

ODO reviewed █ health care staff credential files and found in █ files, no valid professional licensure nor certification for the jurisdiction in which the health care provider practiced and performed duties. Specifically, the license for a licensed practical nurse expired on March 1, 2023 (**Deficiency MC-11⁸**). **This is a priority component.**

(Source: ODO Compliance Inspection, Wyatt Detention Center, March 2023, page 7)

MEDICAL CARE (MC)

ODO reviewed █ detainee medical records and found health care providers and officers did not keep written records of prescribed medications issued to or refused by the detainees. Specifically, ODO found in █ out of █ records, no documentation for prescriptions issued to or refused by detainees for 7 out of 31 days; 9 out of 16 days; 7 out of 31 days; and 13 out of 16 days respectively (**Deficiency MC-62⁸**). **This is a priority component.**

(Source: ODO Compliance Inspection, Wyatt Detention Center, September 2023, page 8)

SIGNIFICANT SELF-HARM AND SUICIDE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION (SSHSPI)

ODO reviewed one file of a detainee identified by staff as a suicide risk or self-harm during the inspection period and found no evaluation of the detainee completed within 24 hours. Specifically, staff placed the detainee on suicide watch at 1:40 p.m. on August 18, 2023, and mental health staff examined him at 2:30 p.m. on August 22, 2023 (**Deficiency SSHSPI-12⁹**).

ODO reviewed the file of a detainee placed in a suicide-resistant cell on suicide watch during the inspection period and found a mental health provider did not perform welfare checks every 8 hours. Specifically, facility staff placed the detainee on suicide watch on August 18, 2023, and no mental health provider performed any welfare checks until August 22, 2023, the day of the detainee's removal from suicide watch (**Deficiency SSHSPI-22¹⁰**). **This is a repeat deficiency.**

ODO reviewed the file of a detainee placed in a general population housing unit on close observation status during the inspection period and found a mental health provider did not perform welfare checks every 8 hours. Specifically, the facility staff placed the detainee on close observation status on August 22, 2023, and no mental health provider performed a welfare check until August 28, 2023, the day of the detainee's removal from close observation status (**Deficiency SSHSPI-28¹¹**).

(Source: ODO Compliance Inspection, Wyatt Detention Center, September 2023, page 8)

“ Many of us get sick and they don't care what happens to us. We report it at the kiosk and they ignore it.
— Message received March 2025 ”

Theft of Personal Property by ICE

When someone is deported, they are often left in unstable and sometimes dangerous circumstances. They may be returning somewhere they haven't been in years, where they have no family or community, or may even be deported to a third country where they have never been.

By **failing to return many people's travel documents and personal funds** before deportation, ICE makes it even harder for people who are deported to survive and find stability. Without travel documents such as ID's, people who have been deported have

told AMOR that **it can take weeks or even months for them to get new ID's that are required in order to obtain housing or work.**

Past inspections at the Wyatt reveal some of the issues that have prevented people from accessing their personal property when being deported, and these types of problems persist today.

2020

FUNDS AND PERSONAL PROPERTY (F&PP)

ODO reviewed ten detainee files and found five out of ten files had no documentation with detainee signatures verifying the return of funds and personal property (**Deficiency F&PP-1⁷**).

ODO reviewed the facility's detainee handbook and found the handbook did not inform detainees of the procedures for claiming personal property upon release, transfer, or removal from the facility (**Deficiency F&PP-2⁸**)

(Source: ODO Compliance Inspection, Wyatt Detention Center, October 2020, page 7)

Harassment and Use of Force

This fall, AMOR received messages from people detained by ICE at the Wyatt reporting an incident of alleged **sexual harassment by Wyatt staff.**

The incident was reported to the officer on duty, but it seems that there was no follow-up— the officer who had committed the harassment remained on duty and the recipient of the alleged harassment was transferred that night or the next morning.

Unfortunately, as with other issues at the Wyatt, this type of mistreatment of people being detained is not new. Past inspections describes other incidents involving use of force and harassment in recent years.

2019

USE OF FORCE (UOF)

Facility supervisors and correctional officers who have direct contact with inmates and detainees wear [REDACTED] in case of immediate or calculated UOF incidents. ODO's review of a calculated UOF incident found the facility correctional emergency response team (CERT) had not continuously video recorded the incident. [REDACTED]

(Deficiency UOF-1¹⁸).

(Source: ODO Compliance Inspection, Wyatt Detention Center, October 2019, page 11)

2023

Staff-Detainee Communication: Two detainees stated facility staff verbally abused them, but they did not submit grievances.

- Action Taken: ODO informed facility staff of the alleged verbal abuse by a facility staff member. A facility staff member, not the subject of the allegation, confirmed the allegation and informed ODO she confronted the subject of the allegation and reported the incident to facility leadership. On October 11, 2023 ERO Boston staff informed ODO facility leadership provided the subject staff member with corrective action for his unprofessionalism toward the detainees and they reminded the subject staff member of the importance of always maintaining professionalism while on duty.

(Source: ODO Compliance Inspection, Wyatt Detention Center, September 2023, page 7)

These reports **do not represent the full picture**. Many harassment and use of force incidents go unreported because people being detained **fear retaliation**, often in the form of being transferred to another detention facility out of state.

Failure to Provide Access to Legal Resources

Detention is a form of obstructing an immigrant's lawful right to have their immigration case fairly heard in a court of law. Immigration detention creates obstacles to

preparing a legal case, including through limited access to lawyers and legal resources. Nevertheless, ICE regulations do have minimum standards for legal access, for example in making available a law library and pro bono attorney numbers. **The Wyatt has a history of denying access to to even these minimum standards of legal resources.**

2019

“ODO interviewed facility staff and found that weekly inspections and **updates of legal materials are not being performed** in order to confirm the good condition and prompt replacement of damaged or outdated law library materials and equipment. Additionally, LexisNexis was not installed on the law library computer the facility maintains in the segregation unit...

“ODO reviewed the facility’s detainee handbook and found the law library section is missing the procedure for requesting legal materials not in the law library and the procedure for notifying a designated employee that law library material is missing or damaged. Additionally, **the facility has not posted their law library policies and procedures** near the law library computer in the segregation unit...

“ODO reviewed WDF’s orientation program and found that although detainees are shown a PREA video in English and Spanish, the facility does not show any other video that outlines facility operation, programs, and services...

“ODO interviewed WDF staff and found **they do not document resolutions of oral grievances in detainee detention files.**”

(Source: ODO Compliance Inspection, Wyatt Detention Center, October 2019, pages 8-9)

2023

ODO interviewed the WDC visitation supervisor, observed WDC legal visitation rooms, and found no posted rules and hours for legal visitation (**Deficiency V-35¹⁶**).

ODO toured the WDC detainee housing unit, observed detainee housing unit postings, and found no posted current pro bono list (**Deficiency V-69¹⁷**).

(Source: ODO Compliance Inspection, Wyatt Detention Center, March 2023, page 9)

JUSTICE

DETAINEE HANDBOOK (DH)

ODO interviewed the WDC classification manager, reviewed 25 detainee detention files, and found in 25 out of 25 files, no documentation of detainees acknowledging receipt of the ICE National Detainee Handbook (**Deficiency DH-9¹⁸**). **This is a priority component.**

(Source: ODO Compliance Inspection, Wyatt Detention Center, October 2019, pages 8-9)

2025

AMOR received reports from people being detained that the facility has been **limiting people's access to the legal program by arbitrarily deciding who can and cannot attend.**

2026

AMOR received reports from people being detained that the phone number provided at the Wyatt for pro bono legal services does not work.

At the Wyatt Detention Facility, violations of the rights of people being detained has become commonplace. This is unacceptable.

Our community members should not be subjected to the inhumane detention conditions at the Wyatt. While they fight their immigration cases, they should be permitted to remain at home where they can access safe food, safe water, and legal resources, and be treated with the dignity that every person deserves.