

2.6 Hold Rooms in Detention Facilities

I. Purpose and Scope

This detention standard ensures the safety, security, and comfort of detainees temporarily held in hold rooms while awaiting further processing. An individual may not be confined in a facility's hold room for more than 12 hours.

Hold rooms are used for detention of individuals awaiting removal, transfer, EOIR hearings, medical treatment, intra-facility movement, or other processing into or out of a facility.

This detention standard applies to the following types of facilities housing ICE/ERO detainees:

- Service Processing Centers (SPCs);
- Contract Detention Facilities (CDFs); and
- State or local government facilities used by ERO through Intergovernmental Service Agreements (IGSAs) to hold detainees for more than 72 hours.

Procedures in italics are specifically required for SPCs, CDFs, and Dedicated IGSA facilities. Non-dedicated IGSA facilities must conform to these procedures or adopt, adapt or establish alternatives, provided they meet or exceed the intent represented by these procedures.

For all types of facilities, procedures that appear in italics with a marked (**) on the page indicate optimum levels of compliance for this standard.

Various terms used in this standard may be defined in standard “7.5 Definitions.”

II. Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of this detention standard are as follows (specific requirements are defined in “V. Expected Practices”).

1. The safety, security and comfort of detainees temporarily confined in hold rooms shall be ensured.
2. No detainee shall be confined in a hold room for more than 12 hours.
3. Males and females shall be confined separately.
4. Minors (persons under 18) shall be held apart from adults, except for documented related adults or legal guardians, provided this arrangement incites no safety or security concerns.
5. Any detainee with a disability, including temporary disabilities, shall be held in a manner that provides for his/her safety, comfort and security.
6. Detainees awaiting a medical visit shall be seen within two hours.

III. Standards Affected

This detention standard replaces “Hold Rooms in Detention Facilities” dated 12/2/2008.

IV. References

American Correctional Association, *Performance-based Standards for Adult Local Detention Facilities*, 4th Edition: 1A-04, 1A-09, 1A-10, 1A-11, 1A-14, 1A-19, 1A-20, 1A-21, 6B-04.

ICE/ERO *Performance-based National Detention Standards 2011*:

- “2.6 Hold Rooms in Detention Facilities”;
- “2.10 Searches of Detainees”;
- “2.15 Use of Force and Restraints”; and
- “4.6 Significant Self-harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention.”

ICE/ERO “Family Residential” standards “Searches of Residents.”

ICE/ERO “Family Residential” standards “Use of Physical Force.”

V. Expected Practices

A. Physical Conditions

Based on the ICE/ERO Hold Room Design Guide, hold rooms in SPCs and CDFs must comply with the criteria in italics in this subsection. All other facilities are encouraged to make appropriate modifications to meet the criteria specified in the ICE/ERO Hold Room Design Guide.

1. *Each hold room shall be situated within the facility's secure perimeter.*
2. *Each single-occupant hold room shall contain a minimum of 37 square feet (seven unencumbered square feet for the detainee, five square feet for a combination lavatory/toilet fixture and 25 square feet for wheelchair turnaround). Multiple-occupant hold rooms shall provide an additional seven square feet of unencumbered space for each additional detainee. "Unencumbered space" does not include space taken up by benches and tables.*
3. Each hold room shall be well ventilated and well lit. All activating switches and controls shall be located outside the room, in places accessible to staff only.
4. *Each hold room shall contain sufficient seating for the maximum room-capacity but shall contain no moveable furniture. Benches shall provide 18" of seat space per detainee and may be bolted to the floor or attached to the wall if the wall is of suitable construction.*
5. *Bunks, cots, beds and other sleeping apparatus are not permitted inside hold rooms. Exceptions shall be made for detainees who are ill, and for minors and pregnant women.*
6. *Each hold room shall be equipped with stainless steel, combination lavatory/toilet fixtures with modesty panels, in compliance with the applicable federal and state accessibility standards. Consistent with the International Plumbing Code:*
 - a. *each small hold room (up to 14 detainees) shall have one combination unit; and*
 - b. *each large hold room (15 to 49 detainees), shall have at least two combination units. (The Hold Room Design Standards A-E, HDR Architecture, recommends a third combination unit for a hold room with 30 or more detainees, or one combination unit for every 15 detainees.)*
7. *Each hold room shall have floor drain(s).*
8. *Hold-room walls shall be escape- and tamper-proof (e.g., an eight-inch, reinforced concrete masonry unit wall). Impact-resistant, steel-studded surfaces shall meet this standard in existing buildings that cannot support reinforced concrete. The walls shall extend and be built into the floor/room structure above. Ceilings shall also be escape- and tamper-proof, preferably 10 to 16 feet high but no less than nine feet, except in currently existing facilities with lower floor-to-floor heights.*
9. *Each hold room shall have two-inch thick, detention-grade 14-gauge steel doors that swing outward, and the 14-gauge steel doorframes shall be grouted into the surrounding wall. Also required are tamper-resistant bolt locks, door-mounted with paracentric keys or jamb-mounted with mogul keys.*
10. *The solid doors shall be equipped with security-glass or barred windows, 12"x12", installed at eye level for convenient visual checks. Security bars or mesh doors shall be of appropriately sturdy construction to prevent escape.*
11. *Primary surveillance shall be through observation windows to the side of the hold-room doors. Observation windows shall start about three feet from the floor and extend no higher than the top of the door.*
12. *The glazing shall meet or exceed the impact-resistant standard of glass-clad polycarbonate*

laminate. Window jambs shall be 14-gauge steel.

13. Detainees shall have access to potable water in hold rooms.

B. Unprocessed Detainees

An individual may not be held in a hold room for more than 12 hours.

1. Unaccompanied minors (persons under 18) and parent(s) or legal guardians accompanied by minor children shall not be placed in hold rooms, unless they have shown or threatened violent behavior, have a history of criminal activity, or have given staff reasonable grounds to expect an escape attempt. As soon as it is determined that an unaccompanied minor is being detained, immediate efforts shall be coordinated with the ICE/ERO Juvenile Family and Residential Management Unit (JFRMU) to move the minor within 72 hours, to an approved facility designated for the placement of unaccompanied minors by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) procedures. While in custody juveniles shall be detained in the least restrictive setting appropriate to the juvenile's age and special needs, provided that such setting is consistent with the need to protect the juvenile's well-being and that of others, as well as with any other laws, regulations, or legal requirements.
2. Persons exempt from placement in a hold room due to obvious illness, special medical, physical and or psychological needs, or other documented reasons shall be seated in an appropriate area designated by the facility administrator outside the hold room, under direct supervision and control, barring an emergency. If the physical layout precludes holding such individuals outside the hold room, they may be held in separate rooms, if available.
3. Males shall be segregated from females at all times (even if married).

4. Any minor (persons under 18) shall be held apart from adults, minimizing sight, sound, and physical contact, unless the juvenile is in the presence of an adult member of the family unit (determined through reliable evidence of a family relationship) or legal guardian, and provided there are no safety or security concerns with this arrangement. (For more information regarding juveniles, see *Flores v. Reno.*)
5. Detainees with open, obvious, apparent, or other identified disabilities, including temporary disabilities, shall be housed in a manner that accommodates their disability(ies) and provides for safety, comfort and security.
6. Detainees shall be provided with basic personal hygiene items (e.g., water, disposable cups, soap, toilet paper, feminine-hygiene items, diapers and sanitary wipes), as appropriate.
7. If the hold room is not equipped with restroom facilities, the shift supervisor shall position an officer within sight or earshot of the hold room, to provide detainees with regular access to toilet facilities, which shall be as close as possible within the facility's security perimeter. Detainees using the restroom shall be closely monitored, under direct supervision. Detainees with disabilities shall be provided appropriate assistance and access to accessible toilet facilities in the hold room or holding area.

C. Detainee Search

Officers shall inspect parcels, suitcases, bags, bundles, boxes and other property before accepting any item of property.

Before placing a detainee in a room, staff shall do a pat-down search for weapons or contraband.

1. The pat-down search shall be done by a staff member of the same gender as the detainee, unless one is not available.
2. A pat-down search is required, even if another section

or agency claims to have completed one.

If the pat-down search indicates the need for a more thorough search (e.g., in cases of reasonable suspicion of contraband or weapon possession), a strip search shall be conducted, in accordance with standard “2.10 Searches of Detainees” and/or the “Family Residential” standard on “Searches of Residents.”

Staff shall remove from a detainee’s possession any sharp objects, including pens, pencils, knives, nail files and other objects that could be used as weapons or to deface property.

D. Basic Operational Procedures

1. Before placing a detainee in a hold room, an officer shall observe and evaluate whether the detainee presents any open, obvious or apparent disabilities, mental health concerns, or other special needs. If any such special needs, including any disabilities, or concerns, are apparent, the officer shall notify appropriate staff.
2. Each facility shall maintain a detention log (manual or electronic) into which the hold room officer shall immediately enter specific information on an ICE/ERO detainee’s placement in a hold room.

The detention log shall record each detainee’s:

- a. name;
- b. sex;
- c. age;
- d. A-number;
- e. nationality;
- f. reason for placement;
- g. time in;
- h. time out; and
- i. date and time of new age determination.

The log shall also provide space to record meal

times, visual checks, security concerns (which may also necessitate an incident report) and comments.

3. Meals:
 - a. Officers shall offer a meal to any adult held in a hold room for more than six hours. (Officers shall question newly arrived individuals to determine when he/she last ate, and, if appropriate, provide a meal soon after arrival in the hold room.)
 - b. Each minor shall receive meal service regardless of the time in custody or time of arrival.
 - c. Minors, pregnant women and others with evident medical needs shall have access to snacks, milk and juice.
 - d. To the extent practicable, officers shall be sensitive to detainees’ cultural, religious and medical culinary restrictions and differences.
4. Staff shall ensure that sanitation, temperatures and humidity in hold rooms are maintained at acceptable and comfortable levels. Minors, pregnant women and others with evident medical needs shall have temporary access to temperature-appropriate clothing and blankets.
5. Officers shall closely and directly supervise hold rooms through the following means:
 - a. continuous auditory monitoring, even when the hold room is not in the officer’s direct line of sight;
 - b. visual monitoring at irregular intervals at least every 15 minutes, each time recorded in the detention log, to include the time, the officer’s printed name, and any unusual behavior or complaints under “comments”; and
 - c. constant surveillance of any detainee exhibiting signs of hostility, depression, or similar behaviors. In such cases, the officer shall notify the shift supervisor. (See standard

“4.6 Significant Self-harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention.”)

6. Staff shall not permit detainees to use tobacco products in a hold room.
7. The occupant load/detainee capacity shall be posted outside of each holding cell.
8. *No officer may enter a hold room unless another officer is stationed outside the door, ready to respond as needed. Officers may not routinely carry firearms, pepper spray, a baton or any other non-deadly force devices into a hold room, and any required physical force to control a situation shall be in accordance with standard “2.15 Use of Force and Restraints” and/or the “Family Residential” standard on “Use of Physical Force.”*
9. When the last detainee has been removed, officers shall ensure the hold room is thoroughly cleaned and inspected for any evidence of tampering with doors, locks, windows, grills, plumbing, electrical fixtures, or contraband, and shall report any such problems to the shift supervisor for corrective action or repair.

E. Fire, Building Evacuations and Medical Emergencies

1. The facility administrator shall develop and

distribute a written plan to be followed in the event of a fire, building evacuation, or medical emergency.

Evacuation procedures shall include posting the evacuation map and advance designation of the officer responsible for removing detainees from the hold room(s) in case of fire and/or building evacuation.

2. Staff shall immediately:
 - a. contact the medical emergency service when a detainee appears to be in need of urgent medical treatment; and
 - b. notify the supervisor of any such emergencies.
3. If a detainee is removed from a hold room for medical treatment, an officer detail shall accompany and remain with that detainee until medical personnel determine whether the condition requires hospitalization.
 - a. If the detainee is not hospitalized, the officer detail shall remain with the detainee until treatment is complete and then escort the detainee back to the facility.
 - b. If the detainee is hospitalized, the officer detail shall notify the supervisor and await further instructions.