

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CIVIL RIGHTS REFORMS IN JAILS AND PRISONS

The Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division is committed to vigorous enforcement to protect the rights of individuals confined in adult jails and prisons. Since 2009, the division has launched several comprehensive pattern or practice investigations and reached innovative settlement agreements to address unlawful conditions of confinement.

The Attorney General is authorized to conduct investigations and remedy a pattern or practice of unlawful conditions in jails and prisons under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA). When the Department of Justice determines that individuals confined in the facilities are systematically deprived of their constitutional or federal statutory rights, the Attorney General is authorized to file a civil action to correct the violations. The Special Litigation Section of the Civil Rights Division enforces CRIPA in partnership with U.S. Attorney's Offices around the country.

The division is enforcing 23 agreements with state and local governments concerning conditions in adult jails and prisons, including 13 court-enforceable agreements.

- **Court-Enforceable Agreements:** *Golden Grove Adult Correctional and Detention Facility (Virgin Islands); Guam Department of Corrections; Harrison County Jail (Mississippi); Cook County Jail (Illinois); Erie County Holding Center and Correctional Facility (New York); Lake County Jail (Indiana); Franklin County Jail (Ohio); Robertson County Detention Center (Tennessee); Miami-Dade County Jail (Florida); Orleans Parish Prison (Louisiana); Piedmont Regional Jail (Virginia); Tutwiler Prison for Women (Alabama); Los Angeles County Jails (California).*
- **Out-of-Court Agreements:** *Muscogee County Jail (Georgia); Coffee County Jail (Georgia); Baltimore City Detention Center (Maryland); Sebastian County Adult Detention Center (Arkansas); Grant County Jail (Kentucky); Oklahoma County Jail (Oklahoma); Dallas County Jail (Texas); Miami-Dade County Jail (Florida); St. Tammany Parish Jail (Louisiana); Topeka Correctional Facility (Kansas).*

The division currently has eight open investigations of adult jails and prisons. The division has also filed numerous statements of interest in pending litigation to safeguard the constitutional and federal statutory rights of individuals confined in adult and juvenile correctional facilities.

- **Ongoing Investigations:** *Mobile County Metro Jail (Alabama); Westchester County Jail (New York); Harris County Jail (Texas); Orange County Jail (California); Pennsylvania Department of Corrections; Hinds County Adult Detention Facility and Jackson Detention Center (Mississippi); Jefferson County Jail (Alabama); McPherson Unit (Arkansas Department of Corrections).*

Tens of thousands of institutionalized persons who were confined in dire, often life-threatening, conditions now receive adequate care and services because of this work. The division currently has open CRIPA matters in more than half the states. Since the start of 2015, the division has issued findings and reached settlement agreements concerning the following jails and prisons:

- **Los Angeles County Jails (California)** – the Justice Department reached a wide-ranging and court-enforceable agreement to protect prisoners from serious suicide risks and excessive force in the largest jail system in the country.
- **Tutwiler Prison for Women (Alabama)** – the Justice Department reached a landmark settlement to protect prisoners from sexual victimization by correctional officers.
- **Muscogee County Jail (Georgia)** – the Justice Department reached a supplemental agreement to strengthen an existing consent decree to protect prisoners with serious mental illness and provide additional safeguards on the use of solitary confinement.
- **Topeka Correctional Facility (Kansas)** – the Justice Department entered into an agreement to protect women prisoners from sexual victimization and resolve allegations that the state subjects women prisoners to harm due to sexual abuse and misconduct by correctional staff and other prisoners in violation of their constitutional rights.
- **Hinds County Adult Detention Center and Jackson City Detention Center (Mississippi)** – the Justice Department issued findings that the jail facilities fail to protect prisoners from violence by other prisoners and from improper use of force by staff. The department also found that the jail facilities unlawfully detain prisoners beyond court-ordered release dates.