



Homeland
Security

December 17, 2018

Via Electronic Mail

Rebecca Merton
National Visitation Network Coordinator & Independent Monitor
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Christina Fialho
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Christina Mansfield
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Freedom for Immigrants
1322 Webster Street, Suite 300
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Re: Contact-DHS-19-0005

Dear Mses. Merton, Fialho, and Mansfield:

On October 1, 2018, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) received correspondence from you regarding the visitation policy at the Otay Mesa Detention Facility in San Diego, California. You provided CRCL with a courtesy copy of your correspondence to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Thank you for submitting 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(a).

CRCL reached out to ICE and requested to know how it was addressing your concerns. ICE provided CRCL with the following information, which it authorized us to share with you: "Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at the Otay Mesa Detention Center (OMDC) contacted CoreCivic regarding the approved visitation list set forth in this matter. CoreCivic agreed to remove its requirement for approved visitor lists as a condition of visitation for detainees within the Otay Mesa Detention Center. ICE has also requested CoreCivic to revise its written policies to reflect such change. CoreCivic has agreed to make this revision and will provide ICE an update on

this matter soon.” ICE notified CRCL that it separately contacted your organization with regard to this matter.

After carefully reviewing the information you provided, CRCL has recorded it in our database. This will allow us to track the issues you raised in order to identify potential patterns of civil rights or civil liberties allegations within our jurisdiction. CRCL will take no further action on the information you provided at this time.

Please be advised that CRCL does not provide individuals with legal rights or remedies. Accordingly, CRCL is not able to obtain any legal remedies or damages on your behalf. Instead, we use information in correspondence like yours to find and address problems in DHS policy and its implementation.

For more information about CRCL’s roles and responsibilities, please visit our website at www.dhs.gov/crcl.

To learn more about how the public can submit complaints or concerns regarding DHS employees, programs or activities; alleged violations of civil rights or civil liberties; immigration filings; travel redress; and other types of grievances, visit www.dhs.gov/how-do-i/provide-feedback-dhs.

Please note that Federal law forbids retaliation or reprisal by any Federal employee against a person who makes a complaint or discloses information to CRCL. 42 U.S.C. § 2000ee-1(e). If you believe that you or someone else is a victim of such a reprisal, please contact us immediately.

Thank you again for contacting CRCL.

Sincerely,

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