

Virginia Detention Center Oversight

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Ownership and profits

Two Virginia detention facilities are under contract with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE):

- CoreCivic operates the Farmville Detention Center (FDC) in Farmville, VA. [Acquired by CoreCivic in mid-2025](#) to provide civil detention services for adult male noncitizens, the FDC has a capacity of 736 beds. FDC held about [4,000 detainees in FY 2025](#).

CoreCivic is an American prison operator, one of the largest for-profit prison, jail and detention contractors in the U.S. With [a long history of bad behavior](#), it was awarded \$300m in contracts by the Trump administration in 2025. While its largest investors include Black Rock and Vanguard, the Virginia Retirement System has also invested in CoreCivic, which owns and operates at least 10 ICE detention facilities and reported [\\$2.2 billion in total revenue in 2025](#). ([They are making a lot of money from the suffering of immigrants!](#))

- Caroline Detention Facility (CDF), owned and operated by the Peumansend Creek Regional Jail Authority, is a 336-bed correctional facility located near Bowling Green, Virginia. This facility is governed by its own authority. [Caroline County is the main financial beneficiary](#) of the operational payments made by ICE. As in Farmville, [the facility serves as a major local employer](#). Also as in Farmville, and according to ICE data, the vast majority of detainees (68%) [had no criminal convictions](#).

Why do we care?

Both facilities have records of non-compliance with prison standards. Detainee reports include [inedible food](#), [lack of medical attention and legal rights violations](#).

What are the established standards?

The Virginia Board of Corrections holds authority to establish and inspect state facilities to ensure compliance; the [Federal Performance-Based Detention Standards](#) are aligned with the American Correctional Association (ACA) standards. Each set of standards prioritizes safe, humane, and secure conditions for detainees, focusing on constitutional rights, staff training, medical care, and facility management. These standards ensure the safety and security of staff and detainees, including adequate medical and mental health care, as well as the protection of legal rights.

What does Virginia state code say about the operation of detention centers?

- [SB783](#), passed in 2026, will block local law enforcement from entering into detention or enforcement agreements with ICE.
- [SB1283](#), passed in 2025, removes the authority of the Department of Corrections and regional jail authorities to contract with private entities for prison operation, security, or inmate custody, unless specifically approved by the General Assembly. The DOC and regional authorities must ensure compliance with these changes by July 1, 2028.
- SB5017 passed in 2020, [following severe COVID-19 outbreaks at both FDC and CDF](#). This law requires the Board of Local and Regional Jails to set minimum sanitation standards and conduct annual or emergency inspections. The law enables the Board of Local and Regional Jails and the [State Health Commissioner](#) to order unannounced, in-person inspections of these private facilities. Local governing bodies *and state officials* have authorized access to these facilities to ensure the well-being of the detained population.

What does it mean?

While the ICE [Office of Detention Oversight](#) has conducted an inspection in the CDF, there are no records of independent, third-party inspections (such as from NGOs or the UN) having successfully completed on-site visits to either of Virginia's ICE facilities.

Our concerns about ICE contracts for detention centers in Virginia appear to be well-founded by detainee first person accounts documented by reliable news sources. Nationally, concerns about detention center conditions include reporting around Alligator Alcatraz in Florida, where people are held in cages without adequate sanitation; the Dilley Immigration Processing Center in Texas, where alarms have been raised about the safety of teenage girls; and inhumane release policies in Minnesota, where people are sometimes released in the middle of the night, without adequate clothing, phone or transportation.

Clearly, Virginia detention centers which contract with ICE need independent oversight by our elected state and federal representatives. We called Senator [Tim Kaine](#) and Senator [Mark Warner](#) to ask about detention center oversight. Their staffs told us they have not conducted any oversight visits to the detention centers.

You can echo our concern by 1) contacting the Senators in the links above to ask for oversight efforts; and 2) contacting [your State representatives](#) to ask about their access to ICE detention centers.

Please also consider joining us as we continue to deepen our outreach and research into ICE detention center operations. We welcome your insights, amendments and corrections!