

Juvenile Justice Commission of San Diego County

Jails and Lockups 2024 Inspection Report

2023 Yearly Statistics (from Logbooks)

0 # **Secure** detentions **OVER** 6 hours

12 # **Secure** detentions **UNDER** 6 hours

0 # **Non-secure** detentions **OVER** 6 hours

68 # **Non-secure** detentions **UNDER** 6 hours

Authority: Pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Code Section 209(b), a judge of the juvenile court shall conduct an annual inspection, either in person or through a delegated member of the appropriate county or regional juvenile justice commission, of any law enforcement facility that contains a lockup for adults which, in the preceding year, was used for the secure detention of any minor.

Please respond to sections that apply to the facility you are inspecting (type or print clearly)

Facility Name: El Cajon Police Department Date of Inspection: 11/07/2024
Address: 100 Civic Center Way Date of Last Inspection: 10/06/2023
El Cajon, CA 92020 Phone Number: 619-579-3311

Facility Manager: Chief Mike Moulton Contact Person: Officer Justin White
Phone No.: 619-579-3311 Phone No.: 619-921-5213
Staff Assisting: _____ E-mail: jwhite@elcajon.gov
Phone No.: _____ Alt. Contact: _____

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge: Ana España
Commission Chair: Yvette D. Klepin
Phone No.: (858) 634-1555
Inspecting Commissioners: Amy Lansing

I. **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

- A. El Cajon Police Department as a whole, and the holding areas, are well-maintained.
- B. Records were easily accessible and reasonably organized, though some records had to be printed out to complete the files.
- C. Secure holds of minors are most likely to occur whenever numerous minors are brought in at the same time and safety is of concern, or with serious charges and aggressive behavior.
- D. Record-keeping continues to be problematic, although some documentation issues are minor, both over-reporting and under-reporting to the State occurred during four months in 2023.
 - a. In both January and April 2023, non-secure holds were double counted and secure holds were reported that did not occur (i.e., there were a total of four non-secure holds in January and April – and no secure holds in either month, yet El Cajon reported to the State that there were four non-secure and four secure holds in each month – doubling the actual number of minors seen at the facility, as well as reporting secure holds that did not occur).
 - b. One month was not reported to the State, and it appears that the missing month was October. October was also the month with the largest number of minors held at the station: a total of 17 non-secure holds and six secure holds, which apparently were not reported to the State.

- c. In December 2023, no youth were reported to the State but there were eight youth documented on non-secure holds.
- d. Two youth on non-secure holds in October 2023 were listed on the September logs but the September report to the State correctly listed the total number of youth for that month (i.e., five non-secure holds, no secure holds and no holds over six hours).
- e. One youth in October was arrested for cannabis possession and public intoxication but there were no details about whether the youth was checked, or medically cleared, by EMTs. The youth was released to a family member after an hour and half.
- f. One youth charged with assault and rape in November was listed on a non-secure hold for 5 hours and 59 minutes. Discussed with Supervising Officer as it raises concerns about accurate reporting.
- g. While El Cajon PD now includes both secure and non-secure logs in the same file for each month, there were minor problems noted: 1) blank (or missing) monthly reports to the *Board of State and Community Corrections* forms placed in the file, so it was necessary to have them printed out and placed in the files; and 2) incorrect release codes used: documenting release code 2 instead of 1 code for youth released to family members.

II. **RECOMMENDATIONS** *(if any)*:

- A. The Juvenile Justice Commission recommends that El Cajon PD continue with training efforts to improve documentation on the logs.
- B. The Juvenile Justice Commission recommends that El Cajon continue to work on improving their monthly reporting and oversight over their records, ensuring that each month has complete and accurate documentation. The facility is to correct information misreported to the State.
- C. The Juvenile Justice Commission recommends continued training of officers on intoxication procedures with minors, as well as documentation of efforts to ensure youth are medically clear. We recognize that cannabis intoxication does not have the gold standard assessments associated with alcohol (i.e., blood alcohol levels in DUI arrests) but request that IB continue to look for appropriate trainings, be alert for any health concerns that might arise among youth who have ingested alcohol and/or other substances and take steps for appropriate medical assessments as needed.

The following questions are used to assess compliance with the state standards governing law enforcement facilities in which minors are held in temporary custody. See Article 9, *Minors in Temporary Custody in a Law Enforcement Facility*, Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations (15 Cal. Code Regs. §§ 1140–1151)

III. CONDITIONS OF DETENTION:

- A. Are minors provided with orientation? Yes No
- B. Are they informed of the purpose of detention? Yes No
- C. Are they told the length of time detention is expected to last? Yes No
- D. Are they informed of the six-hour maximum time limit? Yes No

IV. CONDITIONS OF SECURE DETENTION (e.g. cell/locked room):

- A. What is the proximity of minors to adult inmates?
20+ feet, each located in a different area.
- B. What is the ability and frequency of staff to supervise minor?
Supervision is constant.
- C. Is there constant auditory access to staff? Yes No
- D. Are minors provided with a snack if requested? Yes No
- E. Do minors have access to toilets and washing facilities? Yes No
- F. Do minors have access to a drinking fountain or water? Yes No
- G. Are there provisions to provide clothing or blankets to assure comfort? Yes No

V. CONDITIONS OF SECURE DETENTION OUTSIDE A LOCKED ENCLOSURE:

(this includes minors who are handcuffed to a fixed object such as a rail, bench, chair or table):

- A. Are minors assured no “contact” with adult inmates? Yes No
- B. Is there constant supervision? Yes No
- C. Is there a 30-minute limit and Watch Commander approval every 30 minutes thereafter?
Checked every 15 minutes. Yes No
- D. Are minors placed in cell when one becomes available?
If needed and a secure detention. Yes No
- E. Do minors have access to toilet and washing facilities? Yes No
- F. Is there access to a drinking fountain?
Water is available and provided. Yes No

VI. CONDITIONS OF NON-SECURE DETENTION:

- A. Is there direct and constant supervision by staff during the entire custody period? Yes No
- B. Are males and females put in same room? Yes No

VII. INTOXICATED MINORS:

- A. Does the facility have written procedures for the handling of minors under the influence of any intoxicating substances? Yes No
- B. Did the facility detain any minors, either secure or non-secure,

determined to be under the influence of an intoxicating substance? Yes No

If yes:

1. Was medical clearance obtained? Yes No N/A
2. Were these detentions documented? Yes No N/A
3. If the detention was secure, were there documented safety checks no less than once every 15 minutes? Yes No N/A
4. If the detention was non-secure, was the minor in the constant presence of staff? Yes No N/A
5. Who provides medical clearance for these minors?

EMT may be called in the field or a minor may be taken to Children's Hospital but it is not clear if these options are routinely used. Heartland Fire is also in the same building.

VIII. DOCUMENTATION:

- A. Are all mandated visual checks documented? Yes No
- B. Are secure/non-secure detention logs used? Yes No
- C. Do the detention logs list the offense and reason which formed the decision to place the minor in secure detention, as well as the length of time the minor was securely detained? Yes No
- D. Does the facility have signage posted explaining the procedures for the handling of secure / non-secure detention of minors? Yes No

IX. ARE THERE INSTANCES IN WHICH A MINOR(S) WAS HELD FOR MORE THAN SIX HOURS? IF YES, LIST THE DATES, STARTING AND ENDING TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCES FOR EACH INSTANCE.

No.

X. Minors Interviewed (Comments):

No minors present during inspection.