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January 30, 2026

TO: Michael P. Dempsey
Monitor for California Department of Justice

FROM: Eric Bates 
Interim Inspector General

SUBJECT: Monthly Report for December 2025 on Internal Affairs Bureau Investigations, Closed-Circuit Television Review, and Searches at Barry J. Nidorf and Los Padrinos Juvenile Halls

This monthly report reviewing the Los Angeles County Probation Department's (Probation Department) compliance with the Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) investigations, closed-circuit television review, and search mandates outlined in the Order Amending Stipulated Judgment (Amended Order) for the Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH) and the Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH) covers the month of December 2025.

Review of IAB Cases

The Amended Order in paragraph 18 requires the Office of Inspector General to report the number of new IAB referrals, open cases, and results of investigations conducted by the Probation Department. The Probation Department provided documentation to the Office of Inspector General indicating the following:

Summary of Amended Order Compliance

December 2025

Referrals ¹	Opened Cases ²	Results of Completed Investigations ³
4	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">4 investigations were <i>Sustained</i> (1 criminal and 3 administrative)7 investigations were <i>Unsustained</i>0 investigations were <i>Unfounded</i><i>Bureau Determination</i>⁴ <p>(96 total number of current open cases - 71 administrative, 25 criminal).</p>

The Office of Inspector General did not review the underlying facts of the investigations to form an opinion as to whether the results were appropriate, or if the investigations were conducted properly.

Closed-Circuit Television

The Amended Order (paragraph 20) requires that the Office of Inspector General randomly select two days per month to determine the Probation Department's compliance with the Department's Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) review protocol. The Office of Inspector General is to review documentation and video recordings of use-of-force incidents and assess whether (1) the incident violates Department policies, the Amended Order or state law, (2) the incident has been properly identified and

¹ New cases referred to IAB for consideration for investigation.

² Cases opened for investigation by IAB during the month of December 2025.

³ The Probation Department did not provide data for investigations that resulted in the *Exoneration* classification as usually provided. An explanation was not provided to the Office of Inspector General despite multiple inquiries.

⁴ Cases rejected for investigation because they do not fit the criteria for a formal investigation and sent to the facility Bureau Chief to provide training or other non-disciplinary action to Probation Department staff based on the review of the incident by IAB.

elevated to the appropriate Department staff and (3) the video recording was tampered with. Substantial compliance requires verification by the Office of Inspector General that the Department is compliant with its CCTV review protocol.⁵ The Office of Inspector General reviewed CCTV video recordings to assess proper documentation of use-of-force incidents as well as the identification by Department staff of possible violations of law, judgment, or policy, and the proper elevation of such incidents for review. The Office of Inspector General also reviewed CCTV logs and monitored Department compliance with its recently amended CCTV protocols.⁶

Methodology

The Office of Inspector General constructed a sample of two days of CCTV video recordings relating to use-of-force incidents at BJNJH and LPJH for the month of December 2025. Office of Inspector General staff reviewed Physical Incident Reports (PIR), Safe Crisis Management Incident Reviews (SCM), as well as available CCTV video recordings. The Amended Order requires monthly verification by the Office of Inspector General that the Probation Department properly identifies and elevates use-of-force incidents that are not in compliance with its policies, the original stipulated judgment, or state law.

⁵ The Amended Order does not provide a numerical value for determining compliance.

⁶ The Probation Department implemented a new CCTV protocol in October 2025, which includes maintaining a CCTV log of certain significant incidents and prompt notification to senior Department staff. The Department's protocol provides, "Document all incidents on the designated video monitoring log, including time, location, and nature of the incident, for secondary supervisor review. Incidents to be documented include, but are not limited to, uses of force, instances of room confinement, searches of youth's persons, youth-on-youth assaults, unauthorized access, PREA violations, contraband concealment, self-harm, drug use, and potential violations of law, regulation, or Department policy. log was intended to record only "unusual" events such as fights or other disturbances. However, the Office of Inspector General staff reviewed the log which contained usual youth events such as recreation, programming, grooming and visits to the restroom. The inclusion of the improper information in the log was brought to the attention of Department executive management and was corrected.

December 2025 – Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

Case Summary 1

Two youths started to fight in a living unit.⁷ A Deputy Probation Officer (DPO 1) intervened and separated the youths. DPO 1 secured Youth 1 in a corner of the room as a second DPO (DPO 2) assisted and secured Youth 2. Both youths were escorted to their rooms without further incident. The youths were not medically assessed within the required timeframe following the incident. Youth 1 was medically assessed 1 hour and 46 minutes after the incident and Youth 2 was assessed 3 hours and 16 minutes after the incident. CCTV video for this incident was available.

Violation of Policy or Law	Failure to Identify and Elevate	Evidence of Video Tampering
<p>YES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Youths were not medically assessed in a timely manner.⁸▪ Video Review Form was not included in Physical Intervention Packet.	<p>NO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The SCM reviewer properly identified the policy violations.	<p>NO</p>

⁷ SCM LPJH-2025-5842.

⁸ DSB Section 1008 (C) provides: “Any youth involved in a physical intervention incident in DSB facilities shall be referred to medical staff for assessment no later than thirty (30) minutes following containment of the occurrence.” The Probation Department indicated that the delay in medical assessment was due to the occurrence of multiple incidents.

Case Summary 2

Two youths started to argue in a living unit.⁹ A DPO (DPO 1) intervened and secured Youth 1 by his upper torso as a Group Services Nights officer (GSN) assisted and secured Youth 2. Both youths were escorted out of the living units to their rooms. The youths were not medically assessed in a timely manner, with the assessment occurring 33 minutes after containment of the incident.¹⁰ CCTV for this incident was available.

Violation of Policy or Law	Failure to Identify and Elevate	Evidence of Video Tampering
<p>YES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Youth was not medically assessed in a timely manner.Child Safety Assessments were not conducted in a timely manner.¹¹ <p>Physical Intervention Report was not timely completed by the DPO.¹²</p>	<p>NO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The SCM reviewer properly identified the policy violations.	<p>NO</p>

⁹ SCM LPJH-2025-5941.

¹⁰ The Probation Department reported that the delay was due to youth movement for school.

¹¹ DSB Section 1008 (B) provides: “Upon being notified that a physical intervention incident as occurred, the duty supervisor shall immediately conduct a Child Safety Assessment (CSA) involved in the incident . . . The CSA shall be completed within *one hour* of being notified.” (Emphasis added) The Probation Department indicated that the delay was due to notification and staffing circumstances.

¹² DSB Section 1008 (A) provides: “All Physical Intervention Reports (PIR) and Supplemental Physical Incident Reports (SUO-PIR) shall be completed in their entirety and submitted to, reviewed, and provided a signed approval

December 2025 – Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall

Case Summary 1

Seven youths started to fight in a classroom.¹³ A DPO (DPO 1) intervened and a second DPO (DPO 2) assisted and gave an Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray warning before deploying OC spray on five youths. All youths stopped fighting and additional staff responded and assisted in escorting the youths out of the classroom. Three youths were not decontaminated in a timely manner.¹⁴ Youths 1 and 2 were decontaminated 20 minutes after containment of the incident and Youth 3 was decontaminated 24 minutes after containment. The same three youths were not medically assessed within the required timeframe following the incident.¹⁵ Youth 1 was medically assessed 38 minutes after the incident, Youth 2 was assessed 57 minutes after the incident, and Youth 3 was assessed 42 minutes after the incident. CCTV video for this incident was available.

by both the shift leader and the duty supervisor *immediately* after the incident, but no later than the *end of the shift* following the conclusion of the incident. (Emphasis added)

¹³ SCM BJN 2025-2319.

¹⁴ DSB Section 1006 (E) provides: Youth shall be decontaminated immediately but no later than ten (10) minutes after containment of the incident. If decontamination within ten (10) minutes is not feasible; justification must be provided in the PIR. In addition, DPO 1 took Youth 1 and left him unattended in the restroom for decontamination against Probation Department policy and Title 15, section 1357(b)(3). DSB Section 1000 (E) provides, “All youth exposed to OC spray shall be directly supervised until the youth are thoroughly decontaminated . . . youth exposed to OC spray shall not be left unattended . . . until that youth is fully decontaminated or is no longer suffering the effects of the OC spray.” Title 15, section 1357(b)(3) provides, “. . . youth who have been exposed to chemical agents shall not be left unattended until that youth is fully decontaminated or is no longer suffering the effects of the chemical agent.”

¹⁵ The Probation Department noted the delay in medically assessing the youths was due to the number of youths involved.

Violation of Policy or Law	Failure to Identify and Elevate	Evidence of Video Tampering
<p>YES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Youths were not properly decontaminated nor in a timely manner.▪ Youths were not medically assessed in a timely manner.▪ Physical Intervention Report not properly completed.	<p>NO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The SCM reviewer properly identified the policy violations.	<p>NO</p>

Case Summary 2

Two youths were horseplaying that escalated into an argument.¹⁶ A DPO and a Detention Services Officer (DSO) intervened and stepped between the youths and separated them. Youth 1 remained agitated, turned over a table, and continued toward Youth 2. The DSO intervened and wrapped his arms around Youth 1. A second and third DPO assisted in taking Youth 1 to the floor, where he was handcuffed and escorted to his room. Youth 1 was not timely medically assessed.¹⁷ Youth 1 was medically assessed one hour after containment of the incident. CCTV video for this incident was available.

¹⁶ SCM BJN-2025-2405.

¹⁷ The Probation Department noted the delay in medically assessing the youth was due to the youth threatening physical harm to Department staff and was assessed after the youth regained composure.

Violation of Policy or Law	Failure to Identify and Elevate	Evidence of Video Tampering
YES <ul style="list-style-type: none">Youth was not medically assessed in a timely manner.	NO <ul style="list-style-type: none">The SCM reviewer properly identified the policy violations.	NO

Search Logs

The Amended Order Detailed Plan in paragraph 25 requires the Office of Inspector General to review a randomly selected representative sample of searches conducted by the Probation Department to determine the Department's compliance with its search policies and state law and that searches were accurately documented. The Amended Order mandates that the Department follow its policies and state law in 90% of all searches. The Department's policy requires a *minimum* of *two* random searches of youths' rooms on the living unit during the morning and evening work shifts (Required Searches).¹⁸ Based on this policy there should be four total searches per living unit per day. In addition, the Department conducts body scans of youths in its interdiction efforts.¹⁹

¹⁸ Detention Services Bureau (DSB) Manual 700, Section 715 and Secure Youth Treatment Facility Manual 700, Section 715 provides: Staff shall search youth's rooms daily. At the minimum, two (2) random room searches shall be conducted per each AM and PM shift. Searches should be scheduled in a manner that does not create a pattern for the youth to predict such searches. During the search, if any weapons or contraband are found, staff shall complete a Special Incident Report (SIR) and follow the procedures per the Crime Scene Evidence Preservation/Evidence Handling policy.

¹⁹ Directive 1519 provides: Staff members conducting the body-scan and those within sight of the visual display shall be of the same sex as the youth being scanned or adhere to the youth's stated gender search preference as indicated on the Unit Classification form (Penal Code § 4030; 15 CCR 1360). The body scanner viewing monitors shall not be in direct view of other youth.

Methodology

The Office of Inspector General requested documentation relating to all searches conducted for all living units in both work shifts for the month of December 2025. In response, the Probation Department provided search logs for 1098 work shifts at BJNJH and 113 work shifts at LPJH for December 2025.²⁰

The Office of Inspector General randomly selected and reviewed four days of living unit searches conducted by Probation Department staff during morning and evening shifts for all units at BJNJH and LPJH.²¹ The Office of Inspector General determined compliance primarily based on information provided in the Department's search logs.

Findings

Unit Searches

The Office of Inspector General found that BJNJH met the requirements for conducting the Required Searches, meaning the Probation Department is in compliance with the Amended Order. LPJH fell just below the compliance measure with an 89% compliance rate.

Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall

Of the sampled four days of unit searches at BJNJH in December 2025, the Probation Department conducted searches per unit as follows:

²⁰ The daily searches reviewed were conducted in all 18 units at BJNJH and all 18 units at LPJH. In addition to daily unit searches by unit staff, there are also occasional searches by Special Enforcement Operations (SEO) officers or unit staff, typically based on suspicion(s) and/or observed activities reported by unit staff. At BJNJH, SEO or unit staff conducted 6 such searches in December 2025, and 4 at LPJH. The number of work shifts reported for BJNJH in the Office of Inspector General's November report was lower because the Probation Department did not provide complete data for all units for the entire month of November 2025.

²¹ The four days reviewed were December 15, 2025, December 17, 2025, December 22, 2025, and December 28, 2025. In constructing the samples described in this report, the Office of Inspector General followed current government audit standards to obtain a statistically valid sample and used a research randomizer to select incidents. (Off. of the Comptroller of the United States, U.S. Accountability Office (2018), <https://www.gao.gov/yellowbook>.)

72 Sampled Living Unit Searches
<i>4 searches per unit</i> - 69 times; 96% of the sampled living units.
<i>3 searches per unit</i> - 0 times; 0% of the sampled living units.
<i>2 searches per unit</i> - 3 times; 4% of the sampled living units.
<i>1 search per unit</i> - 0 times; 0% of the sampled living units.
<i>0 searches per unit</i> - 0 times; 0% of the sampled living units.

The Office of Inspector General's review found that at BJNJH, the Probation Department conducted two searches per shift (four searches per day), as required by its policy in 96% of the sampled living units and is therefore in compliance with the Amended Order.

Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

As noted above, the Probation Department policies require each living unit to be searched twice per morning and evening shifts, for a total of four (4) searches per day. Of the sampled searches at LPJH in December 2025, the Department conducted searches per living unit as follows:

73 Sampled Living Unit Searches
<i>4 searches per unit</i> - 65 times; 89% of the sampled living units.
<i>3 searches per unit</i> - 0 times; 0% of the sampled living units.
<i>2 searches per unit</i> - 8 times; 0% of the sampled living units.
<i>1 search per unit</i> - 0 times; 11% of the sampled living units.
<i>0 searches per unit</i> - 0 times; 0% of the sampled living units.

The Office of Inspector General's review found that at LPJH the Probation Department conducted two searches per shift (four searches per day), as required by its policy in 89% of the sampled living units and is therefore not in compliance with the Amended Order.

Body-Scan Searches

The Office of Inspector General requested documentation relating to all body-scan searches conducted in December 2025. Based on documentation provided, the Probation Department conducted 285 body scans at BJNJH and 901 at LPJH. The Office of Inspector General selected and reviewed a representative sample of searches for December 2025: 34 for BJNJH and 125 for LPJH.

The Probation Department is required to document each body scan in its electronic Probation Case Management System (PCMS). In addition, each body-scan search is required to be conducted by a Department staff of the same sex/gender as the youth being searched.²²

For BJNJH, based on the Office of Inspector General's review of PCMS records and body-scan documentation, the Probation Department entered body-scan information into PCMS in 123 of the 125 (98%) body scans conducted. In addition, the Department conducted appropriate same sex/gender body scans in 123 of 125 (98%) of the body scans conducted on the youths. BJNJH is in compliance with the Amended Order regarding conducting same sex/gender body scans of and properly entering body-scan information into PCMS.²³

For LPJH, based on the Office of Inspector General's review of PCMS records and body-scan documentation, the Probation Department entered body-scan information into PCMS in 137 of the 141 (97%) sampled searches conducted. The Department

²² Directive 1519 provides: Each youth's scan records shall be included in their file and PCMS to prevent exceeding annual scan limits upon transfer within juvenile facilities. Staff members conducting the body scan and those within sight of the visual display shall be of the same sex as the youth being scanned or adhere to the youth's stated gender search preference as indicated on the Unit Classification form (Penal Code § 4030; 15 CCR 1360). The body scanner viewing monitors shall not be in direct view of other youth.

²³ The Office of Inspector General also noted that only 41% of the body scans were conducted by Probation Department staff with certification for conducting body scans.

conducted required same sex/gender body scans in 138 of 141 (97%) of the body scans conducted on the youths. LPJH is in compliance with the Amended Order regarding conducting same sex/gender body scans of youths and properly entering body-scan information into PCMS.²⁴

Conclusion

The Office of Inspector General continues to recommend that the Probation Department: (1) continue to properly review CCTV video recordings for misconduct involving uses of force and investigating and determining whether staff engaged in misconduct, (2) implement protocols and policies on CCTV review, (3) continue to conduct living unit searches as required by policy, (4) continue to enter body-scan information into the PCMS system, (5) continue to ensure that body-scan searches are always conducted by a staff member of the same gender as the youth searched or the stated gender search preference of the youth, (6) ensure that medical assessments are conducted in a timely manner, and (7) reassign field staff to the juvenile facilities to provide appropriate supervision of the youths.

- c: Guillermo Viera Rosa, Chief Probation Officer
 Joseph M. Nicchitta, Acting Chief Executive Officer
 Edward Yen, Executive Officer
 Dawyn R. Harrison, County Counsel
 Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Probation Oversight Commission

²⁴ Directive 1519 requires all staff members to complete comprehensive training prior to the operation of the body scanners. This comprehensive training includes a (2) hour course which addresses system operations, fundamental safety protocols and radiation safety, as well as hands-on training in scanning and camera operation. After certification, staff are also required to complete an annual refresher training. The Office of Inspector General noted that only 74% of the body scans were conducted by Probation Department staff with certification for conducting body scans.