



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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November 24, 2025

TO: Mike Dempsey  
Monitor for California Department of Justice

FROM: Eric Bates   
Assistant Inspector General

**SUBJECT: Monthly Report for September 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 September 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

September 2025

Referrals <sup>1</sup>	Opened Cases <sup>2</sup>	Results of Completed Investigations
11	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 9 investigations were <i>Sustained</i> (6 administrative, 3 criminal)</li><li>▪ 25 investigations were <i>Not Sustained</i></li><li>▪ 0 investigations were <i>Unfounded</i></li><li>▪ 0 investigations were <i>Exonerated</i></li></ul> <p>(126 total number of current open cases - 100 administrative, 26 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 Department reported implementation of the CCTV protocols and training of the staff began this reporting period.<sup>3</sup> 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 elevated to the appropriate Department staff and (3) the video

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<sup>1</sup> New cases referred to IAB for consideration for investigation.

<sup>2</sup> Cases opened for investigation by IAB during the month of September.

<sup>3</sup> A review of the Department's compliance with the new protocol will be reported in the November monthly report.

recording was tampered with. Substantial compliance requires verification by the Office of Inspector General that the Department is compliant with its CCTV review protocol.<sup>4</sup> 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.

## 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 September 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.

## September 2025 – Los Padrinos

### Case Summary 1

Four youths attacked a fifth youth in a living unit.<sup>5</sup> A Detention Services Officer (DSO) intervened and gave the youths a warning that Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray would be used if the youths did not stop fighting, as two Deputy Probation Officers (DPO) assisted in separating the youths. The DPOs were able to stop the attack and escorted the youths to their rooms. Three youths were not medically assessed within the required 30-minute timeframe following the incident. Youth 1 was assessed 1 hour and 53 minutes after containment, Youth 2 was assessed 2 hours and 44 minutes after containment, and Youth 3 was assessed 1 hour and 52 minutes after containment. In addition, Child Safety Assessment interviews were not conducted within one hour of the incident, as required. Instead, the interviews were conducted five days after the incident. CCTV for this incident was available.

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<sup>4</sup> The Amended Order does not provide a numerical value for determining compliance.

<sup>5</sup> LPJH-2025-4361

Violation of Policy or Law	Failure to Identify and Elevate	Evidence of Video Tampering
<p>YES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Youths were not medically assessed in a timely manner.<sup>6</sup></li> <li>▪ Staff failed to conduct Child Safety Assessments in a timely manner.<sup>7</sup></li> <li>▪ Staff failed to refer youths to mental health services in a timely manner.<sup>8</sup></li> <li>▪ Staff failed to create youth on youth contracts, questionnaires or parent notifications in a timely manner.</li> </ul>	<p>NO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The SCM reviewer properly identified the policy violations.</li> </ul>	<p>NO</p>

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<sup>6</sup> 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.”

<sup>7</sup> DSB Section 1008 (B) provides: “Upon being notified that a physical intervention incident has occurred, the duty supervisor shall immediately conduct a Child Safety Assessment (CSA) involved in the incident. The designated duty supervisor shall respond to the location/building where the incident occurred. The CSA shall be completed within one hour of being notified.”

<sup>8</sup> DSB Section 1008 (B) provides: Mental health shall be consulted immediately or as soon as “reasonably possible” to provide greater opportunity for DMH to assess the youth’s mental state at the time and to prevent further behavioral decompensation, in addition to helping avoid situations where the use of force strategies may be necessary.

## Case Summary 2

Four youths started fighting in the gymnasium.<sup>9</sup> A DPO (DPO 1) intervened and instructed the youths to stop fighting and gave the youths a warning that OC spray would be used if the youths did not stop fighting. The youths continued to fight and DPO 1 deployed OC spray causing the youths to stop fighting. A second and third DPO assisted and detained the youths who were later timely decontaminated. One youth was not medically assessed within the required 30-minute timeframe following the incident. The medical assessment was conducted 51 minutes after the containment of the incident. CCTV for this incident was not available.<sup>10</sup>

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

## September 2025 – Barry J. Nidorf

### Case Summary 1

Two youths started fighting in their living unit.<sup>11</sup> A DSO and two DPOs intervened and instructed the youth to stop fighting. Both DPOs gave an OC spray warning before

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<sup>9</sup> LPJH 2025-4645.

<sup>10</sup> The use of force occurred in the gymnasium which did not have cameras on the date of this incident. Cameras have since been installed.

<sup>11</sup> SCM BJN 2025-1627.

deploying OC spray on both youths but the youths continued to fight. A second DSO deployed OC spray causing the youths to stop fighting. One youth was not medically assessed nor decontaminated within the required timeframe following the incident. The decontamination was 24 minutes after containment and the medical assessment was conducted 46 minutes after the containment of 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"><li>Youth was not medically assessed in a timely manner.</li><li>Youth was not decontaminated in a timely manner.<sup>12</sup></li></ul>	<p>NO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The SCM reviewer properly identified the policy violations.</li></ul>	<p>NO</p>

## Case Summary 2

Two youths started fighting in the recreation area.<sup>13</sup> A DSO intervened and instructed the youth to stop fighting. A second DSO assisted and deployed OC spray causing the youths to stop fighting. The youths were escorted to their rooms, and timely

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<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> SCM BJN 2025-1512.

decontaminated. One youth was not medically assessed within the required 30-minute timeframe following the incident. The medical assessment was conducted 44 minutes after the containment of the incident, reportedly due to the late arrival of medical staff. CCTV video for this incident was available.

Violation of Policy or Law	Failure to Identify and Elevate	Evidence of Video Tampering
YES <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Youth was not medically assessed in a timely manner.</li></ul>	NO <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The SCM reviewer properly identified the policy violations.</li></ul>	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).<sup>14</sup> Based on this policy there should be four total searches per living unit per

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<sup>14</sup> Detention Services Bureau 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.

day. In addition, the Department conducts body scans of youths in its interdiction efforts.<sup>15</sup>

## 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 September 2025. In response, the Probation Department provided search logs for 865 work shifts at BJNJH and 1140 work shifts at LPJH for September 2025.<sup>16</sup>

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.<sup>17</sup> 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, however, found that both BJNJH and LPJH met the requirements for conducting Required Searches, meaning the Probation Department is in compliance with the Amended Order.

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<sup>15</sup> 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.

<sup>16</sup> The daily searches reviewed were conducted in all 12 units at BJNJH and all 21 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 9 such searches in September 2025, and 5 at LPJH.

<sup>17</sup> The four days reviewed were September 5, 2025, September 9, 2025, September 19, 2025, and September 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>.)



## Barry J. Nidorf

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

67 Sampled Living Unit Searches
<i>4 searches per unit</i> - 62 times; 92% of the sampled living units.
<i>3 searches per unit</i> - 1 time; 1% of the sampled living units.
<i>2 searches per unit</i> - 1 time; 1% 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> - 3 times; 4% 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 92% of the sampled living units and is therefore in compliance with the Amended Order.

## Los Padrinos

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 searches per day. Of the sampled searches at LPJH in September 2025, the Department conducted searches per living unit as follows:

82 Sampled Living Unit Searches
<i>4 searches per unit</i> - 75 times; 91% of the sampled living units.
<i>3 searches per unit</i> - 2 times; 2% of the sampled living units.
<i>2 searches per unit</i> - 0 times; 0% of the sampled living units.

82 Sampled Living Unit Searches
<i>1 search per unit</i> - 0 times; 0% of the sampled living units.
<i>0 searches per unit</i> - 5 times; 6% 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 91% of the sampled living units and is therefore in compliance with the Amended Order.

### *Body-Scan Searches*

The Office of Inspector General requested documentation relating to all body-scan searches conducted in September 2025. Based on documentation provided, the Probation Department conducted 269 body scans at BJNJH and 857 at LPJH. The Office of Inspector General selected and reviewed a representative sample of searches for September 2025: 25 for BJNJH and 115 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.<sup>18</sup>

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 21 of the 25 (84%) sampled body scans conducted.<sup>19</sup> In addition, the Department conducted appropriate same sex/gender body scans in 25 of 25 (100%) of the sampled body scans conducted on the youths. BJNJH is in compliance with the

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<sup>18</sup> 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.

<sup>19</sup> In addition to the body scans conducted at BJNJH, there were three authorized strip searches. The reviewed documentation indicated that Probation Department staff completed the searches and documentation in accordance with Department policy in all three searches.

Amended Order regarding conducting same sex/gender body scans of youths but not in compliance regarding properly entering body-scan information into PCMS.

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 111 of the 115 (97%) sampled searches conducted. The Department conducted required same sex/gender body scans in 101 of 115 (88%) of the body scans conducted on the youths. LPJH is in compliance with the Amended Order regarding properly entering body-scan information into PCMS, but not in compliance regarding conducting same sex/gender body scans of youths.

## 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) ensure that staff are entering body-scan information into the PCMS system, (5) 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 youth are de-contaminated after OC spray use within the time required, and (7) reassign field staff to the juvenile facilities to provide appropriate supervision of the youths.

c:     Guillermo Viera Rosa, Chief Probation Officer  
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       Edward Yen, Executive Officer  
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