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July 9, 2025

TO: Mike Dempsey
Monitor for California Department of Justice

FROM: Eric Bates 
Assistant Inspector General

**SUBJECT: Monthly Report for May 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 May 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

May 2025

Referrals	Opened Cases	Results of Completed Investigations
24	24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">18 investigations were <i>Substantiated</i> (13 administrative) (5 criminal)0 investigations were <i>Unsubstantiated</i>5 investigations were <i>Inconclusive</i>7 investigations were <i>Insufficient evidence</i> (7 administrative) <p>(187 total number of current open cases - 160 administrative, 27 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. The Office of Inspector General continues to recommend that the final determination of misconduct not be decided by the investigator, but rather a disciplinary committee. The Department reported that it is in the process of changing its process and the alleged misconduct will no longer be decided by the investigator. An implementation date was not provided.

Closed-Circuit Television

The Amended Order in 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 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.¹

¹ The Amended Order does not provide a numerical value for determining compliance.

As noted in our previous reports, the Probation Department does not have a protocol or policy for reviewing CCTV. Because there is no policy regarding review of CCTV, there is no way to measure compliance with Departmental policies that do not exist.² 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 May 2025. The Office of Inspector General staff reviewed Physical Incident Reports (PIR), 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.

May 2025 – Los Padrinos

Case Summary 1

Two youths were fighting in a living unit and a Deputy Probation Officer (DPO 1), and a Detention Services Officer (DSO) intervened.³ The DSO secured Youth 1 and pulled him away from Youth 2, as the DPO secured Youth 2. Both youths broke free of the Probation Department staff, and re-engaged in fighting, resulting in Youth 1 inadvertently elbowing the DPO in her head and causing her to fall to the floor. The youths were ultimately secured and walked to their rooms. The youth were not medically accessed in a timely manner. CCTV video for this incident was available.

² The Department has a *Video Review* form to note whether a video recording a use-of-force incident was reviewed by a supervisor, but there are no specific policies or directives regarding the utilizing CCTV for review of possible misconduct.

³ Safe Crisis management (SCM) No. LPJH 2025-2273.

Violation of Policy or Law	Failure to Identify and Elevate	Evidence of Video Tampering
<p>YES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Physical Intervention Reports (PIR) failed to include use of force in taking youth to his room.Youths were not medically assessed in a timely manner.⁴ Senior DSO failed to document the reason youths were not medical assessed in a timely manner.Missing Video Review Form.	<p>NO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The SCM reviewer properly identified the policy violations.	<p>NO</p>

Case Summary 2

According to Probation Department documentation, two youths started fighting in a gymnasium.⁵ A DSO intervened and separated Youth 1 from Youth 2, however Youth 2 ran around the DSO and re-engaged with Youth 1. The DSO grabbed Youth 2 from behind, wrapping his arms around the chest of Youth 2. A second DSO assisted and both youths stopped fighting and were escorted out of the gymnasium. The youths were reportedly not medically assessed in a timely manner due to multiple disturbances and

⁴ 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.”

⁵ LPJH SCM No. 2025-2415.

movement of other youths in the facility. CCTV video for this incident was not available as there is no CCTV coverage of the gymnasium.

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

May 2025 – Barry J. Nidorf

Case Summary 1

A youth was reportedly causing a disruption in a classroom and asked by the teacher to leave.⁶ The youth refused, and four DSO staff arrived and attempted to escort the youth out of the classroom. The youth refused and pushed the arm of DSO 1. DSO 2 and DSO 3 secured the youth's arms and then placed the youth on the floor after the youth reportedly became combative. The youth was taken out of the classroom, handcuffed and taken to the medical unit for assessment. CCTV video for this incident was available.

⁶ SCM No. BJNJD 2025-0806

Violation of Policy or Law	Failure to Identify and Elevate	Evidence of Video Tampering
NO	NO	NO

Case Summary 2

Two youths started fighting on a recreation field.⁷ Two DPOs intervened and DPO 1 gave the youths a warning that Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray would be used. DPO 1 ultimately deployed OC spray toward both youths. However, the youths continued to fight and DPO 1 and DPO 2 stepped between the youths and separated them. The youths were decontaminated and medically assessed. CCTV video for this incident was not available as there is no CCTV coverage of the recreation yard.

Violation of Policy or Law	Failure to Identify and Elevate	Evidence of Video Tampering
NO	NO	NO

Search Logs

The Amended Order in paragraph 25 requires the Office of Inspector General to review a randomly selected representative sample of searches conducted by the Probation

⁷ SCM No. BJNH 2025-0660.

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).⁸ 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.⁹

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 May 2025. In response, the Probation Department provided search logs for 557 work shifts at BJNJH and 1100 work shifts at LPJH for May 2025.¹⁰

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.¹¹ The Office of Inspector General determined

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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 0 such searches in May 2025, and 6 at LPJH.

¹¹ The four days reviewed were May 15, 2025, May 21, 2025, May 24, 2025, and May 29, 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>.)

compliance primarily based on information provided in the Probation Department's search logs.

Findings

Unit Searches

The Office of Inspector General found that Probation Department staff at BJNJH and LPJH failed to meet the requirements of the Amended Order, which requires that the Department comply with its search policy when conducting the Required Searches in living units at LPJH and BJNJH. The Office of Inspector General, however, did find that both juvenile halls accurately documented the searches they conducted, and therefore the Probation Department is in compliance with the Amended Order for accurate documentation of searches.

Barry J. Nidorf

Of the sampled four days of unit searches at BJNJH in May 2025, the Probation Department conducted searches per unit as follows:¹²

44 Sampled Living Unit Searches
<i>4 searches per unit</i> - 31 times; 70% 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> - 0 times; 0% of the sampled living units.
<i>1 search per unit</i> - 1 time; 2% of the sampled living units.
<i>0 searches per unit</i> - 12 times; 27% of the sampled living units.

¹² This percentages in this chart do not equal 100% because in all cases we rounded down to the nearest percentage in accord with general principles for rounding numbers to the nearest tenth.

The Office of Inspector General's review found that at BJNJH, the Probation Department conducted two (2) searches per shift (four (4) searches per day), as required by its policy in 70% of the sampled living units and is therefore not 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 (4) searches per day. Of the sampled searches at LPJH in May 2025, the Probation Department conducted searches per living unit as follows:

84 Sampled Living Unit Searches
<i>4 searches per unit</i> - 69 times; 82% 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> - 6 times; 7% 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> - 9 times; 11% of the sampled living units.

The Office of Inspector General's review found that at LPJH, the Probation Department conducted two (2) searches per shift (four (4) searches per day), as required by its policy in only 82% 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 May 2025. Based on documentation provided, the Probation Department conducted 184 body scans at BJNJH and 900 at LPJH. The Office of Inspector General selected and reviewed a representative sample of 20 searches for May 2025 for BJNJH and 121 searches 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 certified Department staff of the same sex/gender as the youth being searched.¹³

For BJNJH, based on the Office of Inspector General's review of PCMS records and body-scan documentation, the Probation Department, (1) entered body-scan information into PCMS in 16 of the 20 (80%) body scans conducted, (2) conducted appropriate same sex/gender body scans in 20 of 20 (100%) of the searches, and (3) conducted the body-scans with certified Department staff in 20 of 20 (100%) of the searches. The Department is therefore, not in compliance with the Amended Order regarding entering body-scan information into PCMS but is in compliance regarding certified same sex/gender staff conducting the body scans.

For LPJH, based on the Office of Inspector General's review of PCMS records and body-scan documentation, the Probation Department, (1) entered body-scan information into PCMS in zero of the 121 (0%) sampled searches conducted, (2) conducted appropriate same sex/gender body-scans in 81 of 121 (67%) of the searches, and (3) conducted the body-scans with certified Department staff in 89 of 121 (74%) searches.¹⁴ Therefore, the Department is not in compliance in any of the three areas.

Conclusion

The Office of Inspector General continues to recommend: (1) the Probation Department properly review CCTV video recordings for misconduct involving uses of force and investigating and determining whether staff engaged in misconduct, (2) the Department implement protocols and policies on CCTV review, (3) LPJH and BJNJH conduct living

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ In addition to the body scans conducted at LPJH, there were also two authorized "strip searches." The reviewed documentation indicated that Probation Department staff completed the searches and documentation in accordance with Department policy.

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unit searches as required by policy, (4) Department executive staff at LPJH ensure that its staff are entering body-scan information into the PCMS system,

(5) body-scan searches are always conducted by a certified staff member of the same gender as the youth searched or the stated gender search preference of the youth, and

(6) the Department field staff be reassigned to the juvenile facilities to provide appropriate supervision of the youths.

c: Guillermo Viera Rosa, Chief Probation Officer

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