

REPORT ON THE
REINSPECTION OF

INDIAN RIVER JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

REINSPECTION DATE: JUNE 9, 2026



ANDY WILSON

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility Reinspection

Second Reinspection Date: June 9, 2026

Acronym: IRJCF
Address: 2775 Indian River Rd. S.W. Massillon, Ohio 44646
Warden/Superintendent: Chris Freeman (Acting Superintendent)
CFIS Team Members Present: D. Drummond / B. Forrest

OVERVIEW OF CFIS INSPECTION

CFIS previously conducted inspections of IRJCF on February 13, 2026, and March 2, 2026. CFIS conducted a reinspection on April 30, 2026. On June 9, 2026, CFIS representatives Deb Drummond and Bryan Forrest returned to IRJCF to conduct a second reinspection to review the Administrative Duty Officer (ADO) rounds. Chris Freeman, acting superintendent, greeted CFIS in the lobby and escorted them to the administrative area. Mr. Freeman reported that acts of violence at IRJCF continue to decrease month by month. Mr. Freeman also noted that the facility closed another housing unit (Unit E).

SCOPE OF REINSPECTION

In accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 109.39, CFIS is required to inspect food services, the grievance process, and either an educational or rehabilitative program. Additionally, R.C. 109.39 authorizes CFIS to review any other areas deemed necessary. CFIS found during its first reinspection that the ADO reports (form DYS2480) were deficient.

The reinspection focused on the following area identified from the previous inspection:

- ADO reports

Administrative Duty Officer (ADO) Reports (*150-FAM-01*)

Relevant Previous Inspection Notes: On March 2, 2026, the CFIS team reviewed the ADO reports for the month of February. The ADO report is completed daily by designated executive staff tasked with completing inspection rounds per DYS policy 150-FAM-01, Facility Administrative Rounds and Communication. ADO rounds cover food service, visitation, housing, recreation, and any other area designated by the superintendent. Staff completing the rounds must sign the record of staff visits and note the time in and time out of the area. The ADO report documents these rounds, including issues, concerns, and any follow-up required.

The ADO is responsible for monitoring adherence to facility schedules during rounds. Any exceptions or deviations must be documented in the ADO report and reported to the relevant department head. Each week, the ADO must also evaluate a facility meal and note menu changes, sanitation concerns, or poor evaluations, and promptly report these findings to the food service manager and superintendent.

Upon completion of the ADO rounds, the ADO report is submitted by the next business day to the superintendent's office for review and signature. The superintendent ensures the timely receipt of the report, verifies all required areas were visited, and oversees referrals and follow-up for any concerns reported. ADO reports are maintained as per retention requirements, and any issues raised in ADO reports become topics for executive staff and department head meetings.

CFIS reviewed the ADO reports for February and noted multiple concerns.

Several ADO reports showed that rounds were marked as complete through video review, indicating that the ADO did not conduct required physical rounds that day. Without making a physical round the phones on the units were not checked to ensure that they were properly working, the cleanliness of the unit could not be observed, and the ADO would not be able to verbally/physically communicate with youth and/or staff.

There were several other days where the ADO did not complete all reports for the assigned area. Further, most reports did not show that a meal was sampled. IRJCF leadership stated that all executive staff will be re-trained by the end of March 2026 on the expectations of ADO rounds. CFIS will seek documentation verifying that staff did in fact receive training and will re-review the ADO reports to ensure completion of the rounds and the corresponding reports.

Relevant Previous Reinspection Notes: The April 30, 2026, reinspection focused on concerns identified in the previous inspection, specifically incomplete documentation, lack of physical rounds, insufficient meal sampling, and inconsistent verification practices. It is important to note that the IRJCF executive staff received updated training the week of March 31 through April 3, 2026, on ADO rounds and ADO documentation. However, a comprehensive review of the April 2026 ADO reports and staff assignments revealed the continued existence of significant deficiencies in the execution and documentation of ADO responsibilities.

Key findings show that multiple ADO reports indicate the DYS Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) tip line was not checked. According to DYS policy 179-YSA-01, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment: Reporting and Responding, the ADO is responsible for verifying the proper operation of the tip line. The ADO must ensure that all housing unit telephones and the tip line are working so youth can report sexual abuse or harassment. During each round, the ADO should call the facility tip line to confirm it is operational, record the prompt heard on the DYS2480 report, and document any issues related to telephone operation or tip line accessibility. Additionally, information about the tip line must be posted throughout the facility with clear instructions for youth, and the ADO should confirm that all required postings are conspicuous.

Despite these detailed procedures, the reviewed reports revealed gaps in compliance. Within the reports, there was no mention of properly testing the telephones or the PREA tip line, and the required notations were missing from the comment section. If the required information, such as tip line verification or prompt documentation is missing from an ADO report, the facility supervisor must follow up with the ADO to ensure compliance with DYS policy 150-FAM-01.

The absence of proper verification and documentation in the ADO reports suggests a significant lapse in facility oversight, potentially compromising youth safety and policy adherence. In addition, third-shift rounds were not conducted in the areas where youth sleep.

Staff indicated that meal sampling and temperature checks are not performed daily. However, DYS policy 150-FAM-01 requires the ADO to sample meals on a weekly basis and immediately report menu substitutions, significant sanitation concerns, or poor meal evaluations to the food service manager. Review of ADO reports revealed inconsistent documentation of meal sampling and temperature checks, with some reports lacking verification that meals were sampled or evaluated as required. To ensure compliance, staff should be reminded of weekly meal sampling requirements, and ADO reports should consistently include verification of meal sampling and temperature checks.

While a general cross-reference check with visitor sign-in books confirmed ADOs signed reports and completed rounds, there were four weekend days of ADO reports that were not present in the documentation provided to CFIS. The provided calendar indicated these rounds were purportedly "completed prior to the assigned day." Given that ADO rounds are to be completed every day, staff failed to perform ADO rounds on those four days.

Several ADO reports documented critical issues – including nonfunctional youth phones, security breaches (missing padlocks/broken windows), and medical concerns (youth tooth pain) – yet contained no evidence of follow-up actions or resolutions. Two reports were missing pages, yet the superintendent signed off on them. In those same two reports, the superintendent did not complete two critical compliance sections noting whether the report was received in a timely manner and follow-up tasks were assigned.

Reinspection Notes:

During the second reinspection on June 9, 2026, Mr. Freeman provided the May ADO calendar and corresponding ADO reports. A review of these documents revealed a significant improvement in report quality: they were notably more detailed and better documented the overall climate of the building. Despite these improvements, CFIS identified several deficiencies.

ADO rounds for May 5 and May 10 were not completed. Mr. Freeman reported that ADOs responsible for those dates have been disciplined.

One ADO report indicated the review was conducted entirely through video. By not conducting physical rounds as required, the ADO could not check unit phones for proper functionality, observe the cleanliness of the unit, or verbally/physically communicate with youth and/or staff.

The PREA tip line section of the ADO reports still lacked commentary as required, leaving it unclear whether the tip line was tested.

Multiple ADO reports failed to list the total youth housed in certain units. Finally, reports that flagged specific issues lacked follow-up documentation to verify resolution of those issues.

CONCLUSION

The second reinspection of ADO reports indicated that the facility has improved the quality of the reports; however, minor issues persist. Mr. Freeman stated leadership will continue to train staff and monitor ADO reports to ensure compliance with DYS policy. CFIS will conduct a third reinspection of IRJCF at a later date to verify the corrective actions concerning ADO reports have been properly implemented, and that compliance standards are being met.



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