



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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June 24, 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR: David J. Venturella
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

FROM: Joseph V. Cuffari, Ph.D.
Inspector General

SUBJECT: *Detainee Deaths in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
(ICE) Custody, FY 2022 through the Second Quarter of FY 2026*

We are initiating an evaluation of detainee deaths in ICE custody. Our objective is to determine whether systemic factors, policies, or processes contributed to detainee deaths that occurred in ICE custody from October 1, 2021, through March 31, 2026. We are conducting this evaluation because of an increase of detainee deaths in ICE custody each year since fiscal year 2022.

Please be advised that under the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, the Office of Inspector General has a right of access to all records, information, and other materials available to the Department of Homeland Security that relate to the Department's programs and operations (5 U.S.C. § 406(a)(1)(A)).

We will contact your office to arrange an entrance conference. During the meeting, we will provide further details about our objective and scope. We have tentatively scheduled fieldwork to begin July 2026 in Washington, DC, and other locations as necessary.

Please contact me with any questions, or your staff may contact Thomas Kait, Deputy Inspector General, Office of Inspections and Evaluations, at (202) 981-6000.

cc: ICE Audit Liaison
GAO/OIG Liaison Office