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**FLORENCE
IMMIGRANT
& REFUGEE
RIGHTS PROJECT**

Concerns over Worsening Conditions at the Florence Staging Facility/Florence Detention Center

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The Florence Staging Facility (referred to as FSF, Fox, and/or Los Conos) is short-term ICE facility where adult men and women are (supposed to be) held for less than 72 hours.¹ FSF has capacity and bed for about 187 people.² Individuals who have been detained in the space tell the Florence Project that women are held in one or more trailers comprised of small cells with several women in each cell. and that men are held together in a large room, with about 60 or so bunk beds, with another segregated holding unit.

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The Florence Project has talked to about 25 individuals who are detained in FSF or FDC awaiting their departs. They have specifically noted:

- They questioned why they are still detained and when they will actually be removed and expressed feelings of being toyed with purposely.
- Several stated that they had been taken out for what they believed were deportation flights, only to be returned and told there were no flights available, or the plane was broken.
- They claimed they had been told their departures would occur quickly.
- They expressed concern for being deported without their personal belongings, having been told that they would only get a swift kick in the ass and they should not count on the items that they had been detained with (Cell phone, money, identification, etc.).
- Multiple people reported they had not been provided with hygiene items since arriving at FDC.
- Several stated they are not receiving sufficient food during mealtimes and claimed noticeable weight loss.
- They reported difficulty accessing medical care and stated they were told they would need to be “rolling around on the floor or unconscious” before being seen by medical staff.
- They stated they have been unable to speak with their deportation officers.
- They reported having no access to phones or tablets.
- Many people had to remain in their plain clothes or lime green uniforms with no access to laundry for days or weeks.
- All reported overcrowding in pods with 200 people in them but with capacity for 100 people.

www.firrp.org

¹ See [Florence Staging Facility, Florence, AZ, June 11-13, 2024](#), “This facility holds male and female detainees with low, medium-low, medium-high, and high security classification levels for less than 72 hours.”

² See [DIHS Tour Our Facilities - Florence](#) ::, “In April of 2000, the facility again expanded to the present 322 beds for the camp and 187 beds for the FSF (staging facility).

Overcrowding and Increased Length of Stays

Over the past six months, the Florence Project has heard concerning reports of overcrowding in FSF and people being detained for over 72 hours, reports which are further supported by recent data. Many women have reported to the Florence Project that dozens of women are being held in cramped conditions in small cells in a trailer, while men have reported that there are around 300 men at any given time being held in large rooms that hold about 60 bunks beds (120 beds total).

Research released from Relevant Research, using ICE Integrated Decision Support interval ADP data, shows that “As of April 2, 2026, ICE reported an annualized average of 368 detainees at the facility. Using an interval average, the number of detainee detained on that date was likely closer to 436.”³ Relevant Research also found that about 326 people of the average daily population at FSF were classified as low or medium-low security while only 66 people were classified as high security.⁴ They also found that of the approximate population 83.7% of people had non-criminal status.⁵

The Vera Institute of Justice also analyzed data collected by the Deportation Data Project, including the daily population of FSF. The data shows that in 2026 (last available data is from March 10, 2026), the population of FSF went up to 750 people on March 10, 2026. The data reflects that from February 5, 2026, through March 10, 2026, the daily population did not drop below 400 people.⁶

The Florence Project is also aware that people in FSF are currently being detained there for far longer than 72 hours, with some people reporting that they were in FSF for about three weeks.

Most recently, the Florence Project has learned that individuals waiting for their deportation flights are also being held in housing units inside the Florence Detention Center (FDC; also known as the Florence Service Processing Center), separate from the Florence Staging Facility, but in conditions that more closely resemble those of the Staging Facility, including, for example, being dressed in street clothing without a change of clothing instead of detention center uniforms. Based on information we have received from individuals in FSF and the portions of FDC that appear to now be in use for staging, the Florence Project believes that FSF is so overcrowded that ICE is now using the Alpha, Bravo, and “Jail” unit of FDC to house people for days or weeks awaiting their deportation.

Inhumane Conditions, Lack of Legal Access, and Lack of Medical Care

Due to the immense overcrowding and increased length of stay, the Florence Project has heard rising complaints regarding the deplorable living conditions and lack of legal access while at the facility.

³ Relevant Research, “Florence Staging Facility,” April 11, 2026, available at [FLORENCE STAGING FACILITY](#)

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ See Vera, “ICE Detention Trends,” available at [ICE Detention Trends](#)

On at least four occasions, the Florence Project was informed by detention staff that they could not visit a client as FSF because they were being processed. One Florence Project staff member tried to visit her client three times over about nine days but was denied a visit because, she said, he still had not been processed or had a medical intake. Other attorneys have also reported that they have not been able to schedule any legal calls with clients housed in FSF, sometimes for days or weeks.

Men have reported that there are, at times, hundreds more men than available beds. As a result, people are forced to sleep on benches or on the floor with no bedding, sometimes for days. Men have reported that they have not been allowed outside for recreation for days or weeks while detained at FSF and the overflow staging portions of FDC.

Due to immense overcrowding, individuals have also reported that people are often sick with flu-like symptoms, like coughing and fevers. People with chronic illnesses, like diabetes, have also regularly reported that they did not have access to their medication or any medical care for days or weeks while in these facilities, and that there are no accommodations for people with disabilities. Based on reports, it appears that most people receive a short medical intake upon their arrival to FSF but do not have access to any additional medical services, medication, or sick call. People with chronic illnesses, like diabetes, have reported not receiving medication for several days or weeks.

Many individuals report having only the street clothes they were wearing upon arrival into custody. The pattern suggests that these are individuals awaiting deportation. The Florence Project has heard reports that people could spend days or weeks in the same clothes with no access to laundry while detained in FSF or the overflow staging units in FDC. Individuals in the facility also reportedly don't have access to commissary or tablets (for communication). Meals take place around 5am, 10:30 a.m., and 4 p.m. There is no commissary available to buy extra food outside of those hours.

People have also reported that because FSF is a small facility and it is over-capacity, their bags of property, including electronics and medication, are left outside in the sun. It was also reported that one person was forced to search for his property in a large bin that contained other people's loose IDs, wallets, keys, and more. There is strong reason to believe that ICE is not following proper protocol regarding people's property, meaning individual's property could be lost, stolen, or otherwise not returned to them.

Individual Case Examples

- One man with Type 1 Diabetes reported that he was in FSF for about 8 days. During that time, he received one medical intake with a nurse. He was not given his Metformin medication for diabetes the whole time he was in FSF. He reported that he sent at least four requests for medical care and requested his medication but received no response. He said that after not receiving his medication the entire time he was in FSF, when he was transferred to another facility, his blood sugar was dangerously high, at 499.

- One man living with ALS reported that he was in FSF for about two and a half weeks. He had access to a bed but reported that multiple other men were sleeping on the floor. He reported that he had intermittent access to his medications but was given no disability accommodations despite being in a wheelchair. He reported that there were no handicapped accessible showers and no shower chairs, so he had to sit in his own wheelchair in the shower. He noted that he did request a shower chair at FSF but was told FSF would not get a shower chair because 'it's only a transit facility.' He also reported that he was not receiving a healthy diet, and he could not digest most of the food he was given at FSF. He reported that he asked for juice as an accommodation because he could not drink the milk and he was denied the request.
- One man with Diabetes was in FSF for about 6 days and then taken to the Bravo unit of FDC for at least a week while awaiting his deportation to Venezuela. He reported that he had been in his street clothes without the ability to wash them for about 3 weeks (including transfers and his time at FSF and FDC). He started to get a rash on his feet which he was concerned about given his diabetes; however, he received no medical treatment. He reported that for about 3 weeks, including the length of his time at FSF and FDC, he did not have his diabetes medication and had received no blood sugar checks. He also had no access to food after dinner at 4 p.m. He reportedly asked ICE multiple times why he was not being deported in a timely manner, and he was told that they could not give him any information. Because of the conditions in FSF and FDC, and the lack of medication, he reported that he experienced extreme anxiety and severe headaches.
- One man from Mexico with family in Nogales, Sonora has been waiting about 10 days in FDC for his deportation to Mexico. He was told he could not be removed at the border to Sonora but instead had to wait for a plane to go to Mexico City. He reported that for several weeks in FDC he could not wash his clothes and could not shower for about 10 days. He also reported that he did not get any recreation time, did not go outside, and didn't see the sun for days.
- One man reported he was at FSF for about 4 days but reported that while at FSF he began experiencing headaches, a sore throat, and a cough. He reported that he was still experiencing symptoms for several weeks after his transfer and noted that he began to cough up blood. He also reported that when ICE transferred him from FSF to another facility, officers gave him a big bin and instructed him to search through it to find his property. He reported that the bin was filled with IDs, wallets, keys, and paperwork, all of which were dirty. He did not find his property.