



Office of the Chief
Records Officer for the
U.S. Government

Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.

April 13, 2023

Daniel Tucker
Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Office of Asset Management
500 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Daniel Tucker,

The National Archives and Records Administration has become aware of an allegation of unauthorized disposition from a member of the public (attached). This allegation documents the deletion of video records and alteration of records in relation to the death of a detainee in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)'s Prairieland Detention Center (PDC) in Alvarado, Texas on April 10, 2018.

In regards to the allegation of deletion of video records, the letter we received stated that "at 10:33 am on the morning that the detainee died, an ICE Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) Senior Special Agent in Dallas reported, 'PDC is securing and reviewing videos and will advise as soon as they can.' Despite that, ICE's final death review concluded, 'All surveillance footage related to the medical emergency response was not retained.'"

Additionally, the letter alleges that there was a written document request and subsequent preservation demands on April 13, 2018 by the External Review and Analysis Unit's (ERAU), which specifically included a demand to preserve all video of the detainee ahead of their May 8-10, 2018 visit to PDC to obtain video. According to the letter, ERAU was informed that "video from the camera at the back of the dorm and from perimeter cameras showing entry and exit of the ambulance was not retained."

Concerning the alteration of records, this letter alleges that "Create Corrections, ICE's outside compliance contractor for death review, noted PDC officials cited the guards whose job it was to ensure the detainee's access to medical care with 'gross negligence and falsification of records.'

These charges included falsifying logs to suggest guards actually performed visual checks...in the hours leading up to his death, as required by ICE standards and PDC's contract. PDC's Security Chief viewed video showing these logs were false. But LaSalle did not turn this video over to ICE."

In accordance with 36 CFR 1230.16(b), NARA requests that ICE respond within 30 calendar days to these allegations. If it is determined that an unauthorized disposition of records has occurred, the response should detail specific actions ICE will take to address any failure to capture and preserve federal records, and the steps that ICE will take to mitigate future risk. Please indicate in your response if any records lost can be re-created or duplicated from other sources.

I appreciate your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please contact me at laurence.brewer@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurence M. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style.

LAURENCE BREWER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government

cc. Michelle Thomas, Department Records Officer, Department of Homeland Security

Enclosure