

March 5 , 2026

Senator DeMora
Representative Cockley
Representative Sigrist
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Jail Complaint- COM-2026-Butler County Correctional-00024

Dear Senator DeMora, Representative Cockley and Representative Sigrist,

This correspondence is in response to the complaint dated January 20, 2026 that was submitted to the Bureau of Adult Detention regarding the Butler County Jail. The specific concerns raised in that complaint were related to the Housing, Sanitation and Environmental, Food Service and Recreation and Programming subject areas of the Standards for Jails in Ohio. We appreciate your concerns and willingness to bring them to the Bureau's attention.

As you may know, the Bureau of Adult Detention assists local jail officials in their efforts to comply with the Standards for Full Service Jails in Ohio. (see [Chapter 5120:1-8 - Ohio Administrative Code | Ohio Laws](#)) The ultimate responsibility for compliance with jail standards, however, rests with those officials. In consideration of this, the complaints were forwarded to and reviewed with Butler County jail administration officials.

The following concerns and/or allegations were raised in the complaint:

Housing

- The complaint alleges that the cells are extremely cold.

On February 3, 2026, several Bureau of Adult Detention jail inspectors conducted an unannounced onsite visit to the Bulter County jail to investigate the allegations concerning the Housing section of the Standards for Jails in Ohio. Jail officials responded to the Bureau's inquiry that day and provided relevant documentation for review consisting of maintenance temperature daily logs for December, January and the first three days of February. After review of documentation and first-hand observations made during the onsite visit, it was determined that the Butler County Jail has the capability to mechanically adjust temperatures to maintain a comfortable environment. A tour of the facility was conducted and temperature readings reviewed.

The jail reported that housing unit H-2 was found to be below a comfortable temperature due to a mechanical failure on Saturday, January 31. When the temperature fell below a comfortable level, all

incarcerated individuals were relocated to another area of the facility. Inspectors reviewed records showing inmates in H-2 on Friday, January 30, but no inmates in that dorm by the end of the day on the 31st. During the tour of the facility inspectors walked into housing unit H-2 and no inmates were housed in the unit. The temperatures in all occupied housing units were at a comfortable level. Inspectors also observed each of the inmates' beds with sheets and a blanket. Therefore, based on the information obtained during this review, the complaint alleging the occupied cells and facility are cold is unfounded.

- The complaint alleges that an offender has not seen daylight since being incarcerated.

On February 3, 2026, inspectors conducted an unannounced onsite visit to investigate the allegations concerning the Housing section of the Standards for Jails in Ohio. Jail officials responded to our inquiry and provided housing assignments for review. Based on the walkthrough of the facility it was determined that all areas of that facility provide natural light. Therefore, based on the information obtained during this review, the complaint regarding lack of natural light is unfounded.

Sanitation and Environmental

- The complaint alleges that shower temperatures are cold.

On February 3, 2026, inspectors conducted an unannounced on-site visit to investigate the allegations concerning the Sanitation and Environmental section of the Ohio Standards for Jails. Jail officials responded to our inquiry and provided maintenance logs for water temperatures for review. Temperature readings taken during a walkthrough of the facility showers in several different locations indicated that the showers were between jail standard range of 105-120 degrees Fahrenheit. Therefore, based on the information obtained during this review, the complaint regarding cold water temperatures is unfounded.

Food Service

- The complaint alleges that the food quality is poor and incarcerated individuals are served inadequate amounts of food.

On February 3, 2026, inspectors conducted an unannounced on-site visit to investigate the allegations concerning the Food Service section of the Ohio Standards for Jails. Jail officials responded and provided dietician signed and approved menus for review. Lunch was observed and inmates questioned about the food reported that the food was satisfactory. Therefore, based on the information obtained during this review, the complaint regarding Food Service is unfounded.



Recreation and Programming

- The complaint alleges that incarcerated individuals have very little time outside of their cells.

On February 3, 2026, inspectors conducted an unannounced on-site visit to investigate the allegations concerning the Recreation and Programming section of the Ohio Standards for Jails. Jail officials responded and provided recreation logs and inmates were observed in the recreation space during the visit. The recreation space is available to inmates when they are out of their cells during the day. Based on the documentation provided and observations made during the on-site visit, it was determined that incarcerated individuals are offered recreation in a manner that exceeds the requirements of the Ohio Standards for Jails. Therefore, based on the information obtained during this review, the complaint regarding Recreation and Programming is unfounded.

In closing, I would like to thank you for contacting the Bureau with your concerns. If you need anything in the future, please feel free to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Caleb Ackley, State Jail Inspector
Bureau of Adult Detention
614-286-2237

Cc: Christopher Galli, Bureau Chief (ODRC/BAD)
Captain Grathwohl, Butler County Jail Administrator
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