

MEMORANDUM

TO: Professor Armstrong
FROM: Katie Briuglio
DATE: December 7, 2021
RE: Claiborne Parish Detention Center

CLAIBORNE PARISH DETENTION CENTER

INTRODUCTION

The Claiborne Parish Detention Center houses male offenders 17 years of age or older for Claiborne and surrounding parishes and the Louisiana Department of Corrections.¹ The open dormitory style facility is currently under the direction of Warden Dusty Williams.²

JAIL CHARACTERISTICS

Claiborne Parish Detention Center for men is a facility that holds offenders serving short sentences for up to twenty-four months.³ The facility opened its doors in 1982.⁴ Originally, the facility only had a capacity for housing 50 inmates, but after renovation and expansion in 2000, the facility can now house up to 590 inmates.⁵ Claiborne Parish Detention Center is a medium-security detention center located at 1415 Highway 520 in Homer, Louisiana.⁶ Homer is a small, rural city with a population of around 3,2037 residents (as of 2016).⁷

The facility is currently under the management and supervision of the Claiborne Parish Sheriff's Office.⁸ The Sheriff's Office is located at 613 East Main Street, Homer, Louisiana 71040 and the phone number is 318-927-2011.⁹ Presently, the sheriff of Claiborne parish is Sam Dowies.¹⁰ Sheriff Dowies assumed office in 2020.¹¹ He is a former Claiborne Parish businessman with law enforcement training from North Delta Police Academy.¹² Sheriff Dowies has professional and civic affiliations with the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, Claiborne 911

¹ <https://www.claibornesherriff.org/facilities.php>.

² *Id.*

³ <https://www.inmateaid.com/prisons/claiborne-parish-detention-center-men>.

⁴ <https://bgcprisonministries.com/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men/>.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ <https://www.claibornesherriff.org/facilities.php>.

⁷ <https://www.jaildata.com/prison/claiborne-parish-detention-center-men>.

⁸ <https://www.jaildata.com/prison/claiborne-parish-detention-center-men>.

⁹ <https://hcsheff.org/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men/>.

¹⁰ <https://www.claibornesherriff.org/>.

¹¹ <https://www.lsa.org/claiborne-parish>.

¹² *Id.*

Board, Claiborne Parish DART, and Claiborne Parish Office of Community Services.¹³ The facility is currently directed by Warden Dusty Williams and Assistant Warden Stephen Risner.¹⁴

The facility’s website is <http://www.claibornesherriff.org/facilities.php>. It does not appear that the website has been updated since its launch in 2017. There are several sections of the website displaying only the message, “coming soon” and several other sections that have not been edited since 2017.

Claiborne Parish Detention Center is a county jail in Claiborne Parish with a capacity of 590 inmates.¹⁵ The monthly average of total booking in Claiborne Parish Detention Center is 262.¹⁶ In December of 2017, the facility housed 274 inmates.¹⁷ The facility is supervised by 90 staff members.¹⁸ In conjunction with the Sheriff, Sheriff’s Office, and the warden, the Deputy Sheriff oversees the day-to-day operations and administration of the jail.¹⁹ Detention officers are responsible for the custody and care of the inmates.²⁰ Correctional officers at Claiborne Parish Detention Center are armed with mace and trained to use physical force to protect themselves, workers, and inmates from violence.²¹

Table 19: Occupancy by Parish Facilities

| Facility | January | | | | | April | | | | | July | | | | | October | | | | | December | | | | |
|---|----------|------------|--------------|----------------|---|----------|------------|--------------|----------------|---|----------|------------|--------------|----------------|---|----------|------------|--------------|----------------|---|----------|------------|--------------|----------------|---|
| | DOC Male | DOC Female | DOC TWP Male | DOC TWP Female | | DOC Male | DOC Female | DOC TWP Male | DOC TWP Female | | DOC Male | DOC Female | DOC TWP Male | DOC TWP Female | | DOC Male | DOC Female | DOC TWP Male | DOC TWP Female | | DOC Male | DOC Female | DOC TWP Male | DOC TWP Female | |
| Northwest Region - Lieutenant Colonel Scott Cottrell, DWCC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bienville Parish Jail and TWP | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bossier MAX | 3 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 47 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 37 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bossier Med | 603 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 574 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 560 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 571 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 560 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bossier SHIRP 90 Day RE1 | 120 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 120 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 120 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 120 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 120 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bossier SHIRP 90 Day RE2 | 182 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 193 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 203 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 204 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 214 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bossier SO Treatment Program | 0 | 0 | 44 | 0 | 0 | 67 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 95 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 90 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 88 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Caddo Correction Center | 272 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 332 | 34 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 286 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 354 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 319 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Caddo TWP | 69 | 0 | 109 | 0 | 0 | 67 | 0 | 116 | 0 | 0 | 58 | 0 | 116 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 0 | 119 | 0 | 0 | 40 | 0 | 99 | 0 | 0 |
| Claiborne Detention Center and TWP | 358 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 337 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 363 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 382 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 272 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Claiborne Parish Jail | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

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There is a total of six housing units within the facility.²³ Prisoners are housed in separate areas depending on the crimes they committed, their current risk assessment, and their behavior.²⁴ The full-service facility is equipped with medical, laundry, and kitchen services and

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ <https://www.claibornesherriff.org/facilities.php>.

¹⁵ <https://thecityofnewbrunswick.org/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men/>.

¹⁶ <https://monroecountysheriff.info/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men/>.

¹⁷ http://lcle.la.gov/programs/uploads/2017_Status_of_State_and_Local_Corrections_Facilities_and_Program_Report.pdf.

¹⁸ <https://monroecountysheriff.info/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men/>.

¹⁹ <https://prisonhandbook.com/2482/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men-homer-la/>.

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ <https://shoshonecounty.org/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men/>.

²² http://lcle.la.gov/programs/uploads/2017_Status_of_State_and_Local_Corrections_Facilities_and_Program_Report.pdf.

²³ <https://leflorecounty.org/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men/>.

²⁴ <https://www.jaildata.com/prison/claiborne-parish-detention-center-men>.

has a video courtroom where bond hearings, arraignments, and first appearances may take place.²⁵

Claiborne Parish Detention Center is designed in a ‘pod’ layout, with self-contained housing arranged around an outer yard.²⁶ Each pod has a central control station and a common room, and the inmates take turns in using the yard.²⁷ A Detention Officer is assigned to a certain pod.²⁸ The facility is designed this way in order to keep certain inmates together, while keeping others separated from the general population.²⁹



Inmates are allowed to send and receive mail and senders must include a return address for the mail to be delivered to the recipients.³⁰ Additionally, inmates are allowed to receive publications as long as they are shipped in new condition and mailed directly from the publishers or major online retailers such as Amazon.³¹ Care packages such as clothing, snacks, and seasonal items have to be obtained from approved third-party vendors.³² Mail will be reviewed by facility staff for content and rejected if it contains any image, language, or subject matter determined to violate facility rules and policies.³³

²⁵ <https://templeton1.org/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men/>.

²⁶ <https://prisonhandbook.com/2482/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men-homer-la/>.

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ *Id.*

²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ <https://thecityofnewbrunswick.org/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men/>.

³¹ *Id.*

³² *Id.*

³³ <https://massblacklawyers.org/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men/>.

Inmates are permitted to call a pre-approved call list of friends and family members.³⁴ Calls are either directly via a third-party call services provider or through a collect call arrangement.³⁵ With a direct call, an inmate must create an account and fund it accordingly to make calls. For collect calls, the receiver incurs the call costs.³⁶

An appointment must be scheduled in order to visit an inmate in the Claiborne Parish Detention Center.³⁷ The appointment may be scheduled online and must be made at least one day prior to the visit.³⁸ An individual who wishes to visit an inmate at Claiborne Parish Detention Center must engage the facility's authorities before the actual visit.³⁹ The visiting schedule is weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and weekends from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.⁴⁰ All visits are non-contact visits and are monitored by facility staff.⁴¹ Inmates in the Claiborne Parish Detention Center are only permitted to have two twenty minute visits every calendar week.⁴² Visitors cannot have more than four people per group.⁴³

This country jail is operated locally by the Claiborne Parish County Sheriff's Office and holds inmates awaiting trial or sentencing or serving a sentence after being convicted of a crime.⁴⁴ Most of the sentenced inmates are held here for less than two years.⁴⁵ Claiborne Parish Detention Center accepts inmates from surrounding towns, municipalities, the US Marshal's Service, and the Homer Police Department who do not have their own long-term lock-up.⁴⁶

Prisoners are housed in separate areas depending on the crimes committed, their current risk assessment, and their behavior.⁴⁷ There are several opportunities offered for inmates at the Claiborne Parish Detention Center including GED, computer education, financial and anger management, and substance abuse treatment.⁴⁸

The Claiborne Parish website publishes a proposed budget on their website each year. However, these proposed budgets do not detail allocations made specifically for Claiborne Parish Detention Center. The most current budget information available to the public comes from a response to a public records request from 2019. This response includes the Claiborne Parish Sheriff's Office Detention Center Amended Budget for the Year 2018. This 2018 budget reports \$3,663,612 in total revenues, including training fees, state supplemental pay reimbursement, commissary incomes, commissary commission, work release, feeding/keeping state prisoners, medical restitution, physician reimbursement, telephone income, vending income, and interest

³⁴ <https://thecityofnewbrunswick.org/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men/>.

³⁵ *Id.*

³⁶ *Id.*

³⁷ <https://prodeathpenalty.com/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men>.

³⁸ *Id.*

³⁹ <https://thecityofnewbrunswick.org/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men/>.

⁴⁰ *Id.*

⁴¹ <https://prodeathpenalty.com/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men>.

⁴² *Id.*

⁴³ *Id.*

⁴⁴ <https://www.inmateaid.com/prisons/claiborne-parish-detention-center-men>.

⁴⁵ *Id.*

⁴⁶ *Id.*

⁴⁷ <https://www.jaildata.com/prison/claiborne-parish-detention-center-men>.

⁴⁸ <https://monroecountysheriff.info/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men/>.

earnings.⁴⁹ Additionally, the report computes \$1,871,819 in total expenditures from PR services and related benefits (including deputies salaries, retirement benefits, group insurance, F.I.C.A, and Medicare), \$600,279 in total operating services (including publication of legal notices, permits, sewer upkeep, advertising, postage, utilities, maintenance, medical services, and service contracts), \$799,410 in total material and supplies (including office supplies, inmate supplies/services for education and recreation, medical drug supplies, uniforms, kitchen supplies, commissary supplies, and grounds maintenance), and \$720 in total travel and other charges (including seminars and conventions, schooling/training deputies, and miscellaneous travel).⁵⁰

NUMBER OF DEATHS SINCE 2014 AND TRENDS

Since 2014, there have been three reported deaths of inmates at Claiborne Parish Detention Center. In 2017, two deaths were reported. Inmate James White died on June 23, 2017 at a medical center outside of the jail facility.⁵¹ Mr. White was an African American male who had only been incarcerated at the facility for thirty-five days before his death.⁵² Mr. White died at age 52.⁵³ On the CJ-9 form, his cause of death is listed as heart attack.⁵⁴ At the time of his death, Mr. White was on parole hold.⁵⁵ The facility reported that it could not be determined whether the cause of death was the result of a pre-existing medical condition or whether Mr. White developed the condition after his admission, however he was taking medication for high blood pressure and was only evaluated by medical staff upon his intake at the facility.⁵⁶

On August 5, 2017, Raymond Taylor died in a medical center outside of the facility.⁵⁷ Mr. Taylor was a white male who died at the age of 42 from pre-existing AIDS and had been incarcerated for 175 days prior to his death.⁵⁸ Mr. Taylor's trial was in the pretrial stages at the time of his passing.⁵⁹

On June 12, 2021, James Jones, an African American male, died at Claiborne Medical Center at age 60.⁶⁰ The reported cause of his death is "natural causes."⁶¹ In the description of the circumstances leading to his death, the facility reported that on the day of his death, Mr. Jones became ill on the bunk of his dormitory and complained that he could not breathe.⁶² Before being transported to a medical facility, he was assisted into the bathroom to use the facility, where he

⁴⁹ <https://www.incarcerationtransparency.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Claiborne-Budget-2019.pdf>. From response to public records request sent in 2019.

⁵⁰ *Id.*

⁵¹ <https://www.incarcerationtransparency.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2017-Claiborne-Parish-Detention-Center-Claiborne-CJ9s.pdf>.

⁵² *Id.*

⁵³ *Id.*

⁵⁴ *Id.*

⁵⁵ *Id.*

⁵⁶ *Id.*

⁵⁷ *Id.*

⁵⁸ *Id.*

⁵⁹ *Id.*

⁶⁰ https://www.incarcerationtransparency.org/?page_id=177.

⁶¹ *Id.*

⁶² *Id.*

was found unresponsive by an officer who went to check on him.⁶³ He was pronounced deceased upon arrival at the medical facility.⁶⁴

Although there are only three reported deaths, a pro se complaint on Docketbird filed by an inmate indicates that there have been more deaths within the facility in the year 2021 that have not been reported in compliance with public records requests sent to the facility.

In evaluating trends amongst these deaths, it appears that all three of these individuals died in medical facilities outside of the organization, two of which were older inmates. It also appears that at least two of these deaths were linked to pre-existing medical conditions, raising the question of whether the facility is providing adequate medical care to inmates admitted with medical conditions.

EVIDENCE OF OVERSIGHT

Claiborne Parish Detention Center is accredited by the State of Louisiana by the Bureau of Adult Division.⁶⁵ They are one of six facilities to hold this accreditation.⁶⁶ Claiborne Parish Detention Center is not listed in the directory as accredited by the ACA, NCCHC, or any other national institution.

According to the 2017 Status of State and Local Corrections Facilities and Program Report prepared by the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center, Claiborne Parish Detention Center was one of 15 facilities in the state to offer adult education in the fiscal year 2016-2017.⁶⁷

Facilities that offered adult education in Fiscal Year 2016 – 2017:

Bayou Dorcheat Detention Center
Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office
Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office
Claiborne Parish Detention Center
Lafayette Parish Corrections Center
Lincoln Parish Detention Center
Livingston Parish Detention Center
Louisiana Transition Center for Women
Louisiana Workforce Solutions – Dequincy
Madison Parish Corrections Center
Natchitoches Parish Detention Center
Point Coupee Detention Center
Rapides Parish Detention Center
St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office
West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office

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⁶³ *Id.*

⁶⁴ *Id.*

⁶⁵ <https://leflorecounty.org/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men/>.

⁶⁶ *Id.*

⁶⁷ http://lele.la.gov/programs/uploads/2017_Status_of_State_and_Local_Corrections_Facilities_and_Program_Report.pdf. Report produced on April 1, 2018.

⁶⁸ http://lele.la.gov/programs/uploads/2017_Status_of_State_and_Local_Corrections_Facilities_and_Program_Report.pdf.

This same report shows that Claiborne Parish Detention Center offers certified treatment and rehabilitation programs. To help inmates develop job skills, the facility offers a program called FDIC Money Smart for Young Adults.⁶⁹ FDIC Money Smart is a financial education curriculum that has been used to help inmates prepare to reenter society and give those with criminal backgrounds the financial knowledge they need to begin a new life.⁷⁰ This program helps young people learn the basics of handling money and finances, including how to create positive relationships with financial institutions.⁷¹ The facility also offers a value and faith-based program called Celebrate Recovery.⁷² Celebrate Recovery encourages fellowship and inspires participants to embrace religion as they work their way along the road to recovery.⁷³ The program provides a specific extension for prisons and jails.⁷⁴ The program works to assist in recovery from alcohol and drug addiction, as well as sexual addiction, difficulty in overcoming a history of physical or sexual abuse, or anger and codependency issues.⁷⁵ The prison and jail extension of Celebrate Recovery helps to facilitate a natural transition back into the community from such institutions by providing resources and assistance through churches that have Celebrate Recovery in many communities.⁷⁶ Additionally, there is an opportunity for the family of the incarcerated person to receive help as they become involved in Celebrate Recovery at the local level during their loved one's incarceration.⁷⁷

⁶⁹http://lcle.la.gov/programs/uploads/2017_Status_of_State_and_Local_Corrections_Facilities_and_Program_Report.pdf.

⁷⁰ <https://www.fdic.gov/resources/consumers/money-smart/money-smart-news/2012-fall-stories.html>.

⁷¹ *Id.*

⁷²http://lcle.la.gov/programs/uploads/2017_Status_of_State_and_Local_Corrections_Facilities_and_Program_Report.pdf.

⁷³ <https://www.celebraterecovery.com/crinside>.

⁷⁴ *Id.*

⁷⁵ *Id.*

⁷⁶ *Id.*

⁷⁷ *Id.*

Table 20: Certified Treatment and Rehabilitation Programs by Parish Facilities

| Facilities | Job Skills | | | | | | | | Values / Faith Based Programs | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------|---|---------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------|---|----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Standardized Pre-release Curriculum | FDIC Money Smart for Young Adults | Automotive Technology | Heavy Equipment Operator | Office Systems Technology | Plumbing | TACT Welder / Filter Helper TAC Certification | Welding | Celebrate Recovery | Faith and Character Based Dormitory | Healing and Eliminating Abusive Relationships | Malachi Dads | New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminar | Praise Program | Preparing for Success on the Outsider | School of the Faith Bible Institute |
| Northeast Region | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bienville Parish Jail and TWP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bossier Max | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bossier Med | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bossier Min | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bossier SHIRP 90 Day RE1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bossier SHIRP 90 Day RE2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northwest Region | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bossier S.O. Treatment Program | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caddo Correction Center | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caddo TWP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Claiborne Detention Center and TWP | | X | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | |
| Claiborne Parish Jail | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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Along with these programs, Claiborne Parish Detention Center also offers Treatment 6002 services; namely, Louisiana Risk Management Model, Partners in Parenting, Thinking for Change, and Understanding and Reducing Anger.⁷⁹ These are reentry programs that help inmates with mental health issues develop the life skills necessary in order to assimilate back into the community upon their release. Thinking for Change is a cognitive-behavioral curriculum developed by the National Institute of Corrections that concentrates on changing the criminogenic thinking of offenders.⁸⁰ This is a cognitive-behavioral therapy program that includes cognitive restructuring, social skills development, and the development of problem-solving skills.⁸¹

⁷⁸http://lcle.la.gov/programs/uploads/2017_Status_of_State_and_Local_Corrections_Facilities_and_Program_Report.pdf.

⁷⁹http://lcle.la.gov/programs/uploads/2017_Status_of_State_and_Local_Corrections_Facilities_and_Program_Report.pdf.

⁸⁰ <https://youth.gov/content/thinking-change>.

⁸¹ *Id.*

Table 21: Treatment 6002 by Parish Facilities

| Facilities | Treatment 6002 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|---|
| | Blue Waters Substance Abuse Treatment | Cage Your Rage | Didactic Program | Domestic Abuse Intervention | From the Inside Out | Hazeldor's A New Direction | Helping Men Recover | Inner Healing | Inside / Outside Dads | Knowledge is the Effect | Life Skills Training | Living in Balance | Louisiana Risk Management Model | Men's Work | Moral Recognition Therapy | Nurturing Parent | Our Best Interest (Women) | Options Reentry Program | Overcomers Recovery Support | Partners in Parenting | Project 180 (Renew, Restore, Reentry) | Residential Drug Treatment Program | Sex Offender Treatment | S.T.A.R. Long Range Program | Steve Hoyle Intensive Substance Abuse | Thinking for Change | Understanding and Reducing Anger | Victim Awareness | |
| Northwest Region | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bienville Parish Jail and TWP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bossier Max | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bossier Med | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | X | | | |
| Bossier Min | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bossier SHIRP 90 Day RE1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Bossier SHIRP 90 Day RE2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Northwest Region | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bossier S.O. Treatment Prog. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caddo Correction Center | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caddo TWP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Claiborne Detention Center and TWP | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | X | | | | | | | X | X | |
| Claiborne Parish Jail | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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Each year, the Claiborne Parish Police Jury conducts an independent financial audit, comprised of financial statements and supplemental information as of the year's end.⁸³ Each of these reports can be found on the Claiborne Parish website.⁸⁴ These published audits are conducted on behalf of the LA Legislative Auditor. The most recent report available to the public is for the year 2019.⁸⁵ According to the 2019 report, the Detention Center portion of the unreserved, undesignated fund balance of \$615,722 shows an increase of approximately \$262,082 from the prior year amount.⁸⁶ The balance sheet from June 30, 2019 reports the total assets of the Detention Center fund at \$7,733,695.⁸⁷ Additionally, the total revenues were \$4,252,530 and the total expenditures were \$3,683,684.⁸⁸ Certain employees of the Claiborne

⁸²http://lcle.la.gov/programs/uploads/2017_Status_of_State_and_Local_Corrections_Facilities_and_Program_Report.pdf.
⁸³ <https://www.claiborneparish.org/documents.php?f=8>.
⁸⁴ *Id.*
⁸⁵ *Id.*
⁸⁶ [https://app.la.state.la.us/PublicReports.nsf/709E11D2108189E686258479005EAB5C/\\$FILE/0001E288.pdf](https://app.la.state.la.us/PublicReports.nsf/709E11D2108189E686258479005EAB5C/$FILE/0001E288.pdf). At Page 47.
⁸⁷ *Id.* at 15.
⁸⁸ *Id.* at 17.

Parish Sheriff and Claiborne Parish Detention Center receive supplemental pay from the state.⁸⁹ These payments were reported in the Detention Center Operating Fund at \$6,000.⁹⁰ The Detention Center Fund ending balances at the end of the year were \$289,147.⁹¹

The Inmate Fund accounts for funds of inmates that are used for personal items purchased by the inmates at the concessions store located at the detention center.⁹² In 2019, the Inmate Fund had an unsettled balance due to taxing bodies and others at the end of the year of \$76,905.⁹³

Currently, there are no orders or consent decrees in effect at Claiborne Parish Detention Center, nor have there been any within recent years.

EVIDENCE OF TRANSPARENCY

The Claiborne Parish Detention Center Inmate Lookup is an online list of persons who have been arrested, including custody status, how much their bail is, and times the inmate can have visitors.⁹⁴ The same information is also available for anyone arrested, processed, or discharged within the past twenty-four-hour period.⁹⁵ Jail inmates are listed in alphabetical order by last name.⁹⁶ The search for an inmate may be narrowed by entering the inmate's first and last name, birth date, and/or arrest number.⁹⁷ Each inmate's record contains his full name, date of birth, address, race, case number, document type, booking date, charges, court date, court event, division, and court role.⁹⁸ If the information sought is unavailable on this site, there is also the option to call the Claiborne Parish Detention Center or send a fax, however, this may take quite some time.⁹⁹ The Claiborne Parish Detention Center also offers a free mobile app that allows the public to receive information regarding current inmates in the facility.¹⁰⁰

Inmates in the Claiborne Parish Detention Center and offered a variety of resources, programs, and services. Programs offered to Claiborne Parish Detention Center inmates include: Inmates Motivated to Change, Outreach Program, Community and Guest Speakers, Resource Fair, Motivational Conferences, and Re-Entry Assistance Programs.¹⁰¹ Additionally, inmates are offered substance abuse services such as Alcoholics Anonymous and spiritual services or

⁸⁹ *Id* at 30.

⁹⁰ *Id*.

⁹¹ *Id* at 48.

⁹² *Id* at 55.

⁹³ *Id* at 58.

⁹⁴ <https://prisonhandbook.com/2482/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men-homer-la/>.

⁹⁵ *Id*.

⁹⁶ *Id*.

⁹⁷ *Id*.

⁹⁸ <https://madisoncounty-sheriff.com/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men/>.

⁹⁹ <https://thecityofnewbrunswick.org/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men/>.

¹⁰⁰ <https://madisoncounty-sheriff.com/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men/>.

¹⁰¹ <https://shoshonecounty.org/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men/>.

counseling offered by clergy.¹⁰² Claiborne Parish Detention Center also offers a transitional work program.¹⁰³

Video visitation is available seven days per week, throughout the day and evening based on the routine schedule in each housing unit.¹⁰⁴ Visitors are permitted to come to the facility in person to use a visiting station in the lobby at no cost or schedule a remote visit from any internet connection that is equipped with a camera, including Smartphones.¹⁰⁵ Remote visitors are charged a fee, and all video visits are by appointment only.¹⁰⁶ An appointment may be scheduled online or in person at one of the visiting stations at the facility.¹⁰⁷ Visiting appointments are twenty minutes each.¹⁰⁸ Inmates are permitted to have up to two visits each week.¹⁰⁹ The facility has the authority to diminish all visits for reasons they are not required to disclose to visitors.¹¹⁰ Only visitors on an inmate's pre-approved visiting list are permitted to visit.¹¹¹ Additionally, all visitation is conducted through a glass window, and the inmate and visitor communicate with each other through a telephone.¹¹² Contact visits are prohibited at the facility.¹¹³

Although there is no available reports or research on Claiborne Parish Detention Center to date, this does not mean the facility has gone without criticism. In my experience filing public records requests for information on inmate deaths with this facility, I have found that although the Public Records Liaison is complaint in responding, the information provided by Claiborne Parish Detention Center seems incomplete and unorganized. I received screenshots of a form for one inmate death in the year 2021, however, the screenshots did not allow full view of the contents of the report. In bringing this to the attention of Claiborne Parish Detention Center faculty, they were not forthcoming with the missing information and have stated that they were unable to provide it.

Additionally, I made numerous attempts to ensure this was the only death for the year 2021, however, my research into cases against Claiborne Parish Detention Center revealed that an inmate reported three deaths this year in his complaint against the facility. I have reached out to Claiborne Parish Detention Center in regard to this discrepancy and have yet to receive a response or explanation as to this matter.

There is little information available on the people inside Claiborne Parish Detention Center, the warden and staff, and the inner workings of the facility itself. Each morning, the inmates receive an alarm to wake up at 6:00 A.M, followed by rollcall.¹¹⁴ The inmates are then

¹⁰² <https://massblacklawyers.org/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men/>.

¹⁰³ http://lcle.la.gov/programs/uploads/2017_Status_of_State_and_Local_Corrections_Facilities_and_Program_Report.pdf.

¹⁰⁴ <https://massblacklawyers.org/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men/>.

¹⁰⁵ *Id.*

¹⁰⁶ *Id.*

¹⁰⁷ *Id.*

¹⁰⁸ *Id.*

¹⁰⁹ <https://nisquallycorrections.com/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men/>.

¹¹⁰ <https://nisquallycorrections.com/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men/>.

¹¹¹ <https://leflorecounty.org/louisiana/county-jail/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men/>.

¹¹² *Id.*

¹¹³ *Id.*

¹¹⁴ <https://prisonhandbook.com/2482/claiborne-parish-detention-center-for-men-homer-la/>.

given breakfast, then report to their job assigned through the facility's work program or other assigned activity.¹¹⁵ Jobs available to inmates at Claiborne Parish Detention Center include working in the kitchen, laundry, or some form of manufacturing job.¹¹⁶ Other inmates attend school, while some take part in mandated treatment programs.¹¹⁷ After lunch, another roll-call is conducted, and then the inmates report back to their jobs and activities.¹¹⁸ Inmates spend their evenings either in their cells or in one of the facility's common rooms.¹¹⁹ During this time, dinner is served and the inmates may be able to take a shower.¹²⁰ After another rollcall, it's lights out, at which time inmates are confined to their cells but may have enough light to read or write letters.¹²¹

The Claiborne Parish Sheriff's Office has a Facebook page where it posts about events, news, and important information for the public.¹²² The page provides updates on criminal matters such as missing persons and arrest warrants. Additionally, the Claiborne Parish Sheriff's Office holds public meetings periodically throughout the year in the lobby of the Sheriff's Office, where members of the public are able to voice their concerns or questions to the Sheriff's Office.

NOTABLE CASES OR COMPLAINTS ON FACILITY CONDITIONS IN THE LAST 5 YEARS

There have been several complaints filed and several cases against Claiborne Parish Detention Center in the last five years.

In 2016, inmate Sean Wesley filed suit against Claiborne Parish Detention Center, alleging that the facility violated the Eighth Amendment when they failed to treat him for Hepatitis C while he was incarcerated.¹²³ In the two years of his incarceration at the facility, Mr. Wesley stated he never received any treatment for his condition.¹²⁴ Mr. Wesley has since been released, and this matter is still pending.¹²⁵ In March of 2021, the court denied the facility's motion to strike Mr. Wesley's motion and denied the facility's motion for sanctions.¹²⁶ Additionally, the court granted Mr. Wesley's motion to clarify his motion for relief from judgment based upon fraudulent acts on the part of Claiborne Parish Detention Center in concealing a document given to them upon Mr. Wesley's transfer allegedly stating his previously diagnosed Hepatitis C.¹²⁷

¹¹⁵ *Id.*

¹¹⁶ *Id.*

¹¹⁷ *Id.*

¹¹⁸ *Id.*

¹¹⁹ *Id.*

¹²⁰ *Id.*

¹²¹ *Id.*

¹²² <https://www.facebook.com/CLAIBORNEPARISHSO/>.

¹²³ *Wesley v. Claiborne Parish Detention Center*, 5:16-CV-01332 (W.D. La. 9/21/2016).

¹²⁴ *Id.*

¹²⁵ *Id.*

¹²⁶ *Id.*

¹²⁷ *Id.*

In 2018, a Claiborne sheriff's correction officer was accused of kicking the prison chaplain.¹²⁸ In the wake of the growing controversy surrounding these allegations, the officer resigned.¹²⁹ Reverend Jones, who had been the prison chaplain at Claiborne Parish Detention Center for 15 years, stated that the officer kicked him as he followed prisoners through a gate.¹³⁰ No charges were filed, and the officer's resignation was effective immediately.¹³¹

On November 25, 2020, inmate Marquis McIntyre filed a pro se complaint against Claiborne Parish Detention Center, alleging that he suffered from physical abuse at the hands of facility staff.¹³² In his complaint, Mr. McIntyre stated that he does not feel safe within the facility, and that he fears that staff and administration will retaliate against him with write ups, lockdown, physical abuse, harassment, or any other form of mistreatment that would hinder him from completing his college degree.¹³³ Mr. McIntyre further alleges that facility staff unjustly sprayed him with mace numerous times and forced him to interact in close quarters with inmates being quarantined for Covid-19 exposure.¹³⁴ Mr. McIntyre stated that he was never given medical treatment from burn injuries sustained on his face due to the mace and was refused treatment on numerous occasions.¹³⁵ Facility staff informed him the attack was the result of a mistake in his identity.¹³⁶ On November 19, 2021, the court granted a motion for summary judgment dismissing all claims against Claiborne Parish Detention Center in this matter with prejudice.¹³⁷ This case is still pending, awaiting objections to this report and recommendations of the court by Mr. McIntyre.¹³⁸

Recently, on August 12, 2021, an inmate at Claiborne Parish Detention Center filed a pro se complaint against the facility, the parish sheriff, and the warden, amongst others, claiming violation of prisoner civil rights under 42 U.S.C. 1983 Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act.¹³⁹ The inmate, Darryl Deramus, alleges unconstitutional conditions, placement of burdens on his religious beliefs by the facility, denial of access to the law library, improper handling of legal mail, and grievance procedures in violation of the First, Fourth, Sixth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, Religious Freedom Restoration Act, and Article I of the Louisiana Constitution.¹⁴⁰ In his complaint, Mr. Deramus alleges that Claiborne Parish Detention Center does not provide locked boxes for inmates to place his A.R.P. into nor any rules enforcing proper filing procedures, that the facility forced him to cut his hair although he informed them that he is a Rastafarian Muslim and it is against his religious beliefs to do so and he had not cut his hair for twelve years, and that he was placed in solitary isolation

¹²⁸ https://www.ktbs.com/news/3investigates/update-claiborne-corrections-officer-accused-of-kicking-chaplain-resigns/article_e469f644-0dd9-11e8-b748-2324922f8e97.html.

¹²⁹ *Id.*

¹³⁰ *Id.*

¹³¹ *Id.*

¹³² *McIntyre v. Claiborne Parish Detention Center*, 5:2020-CV-01513 (W.D. La. 11/25/2020).

¹³³ *Id.*

¹³⁴ *Id.*

¹³⁵ *Id.*

¹³⁶ *Id.*

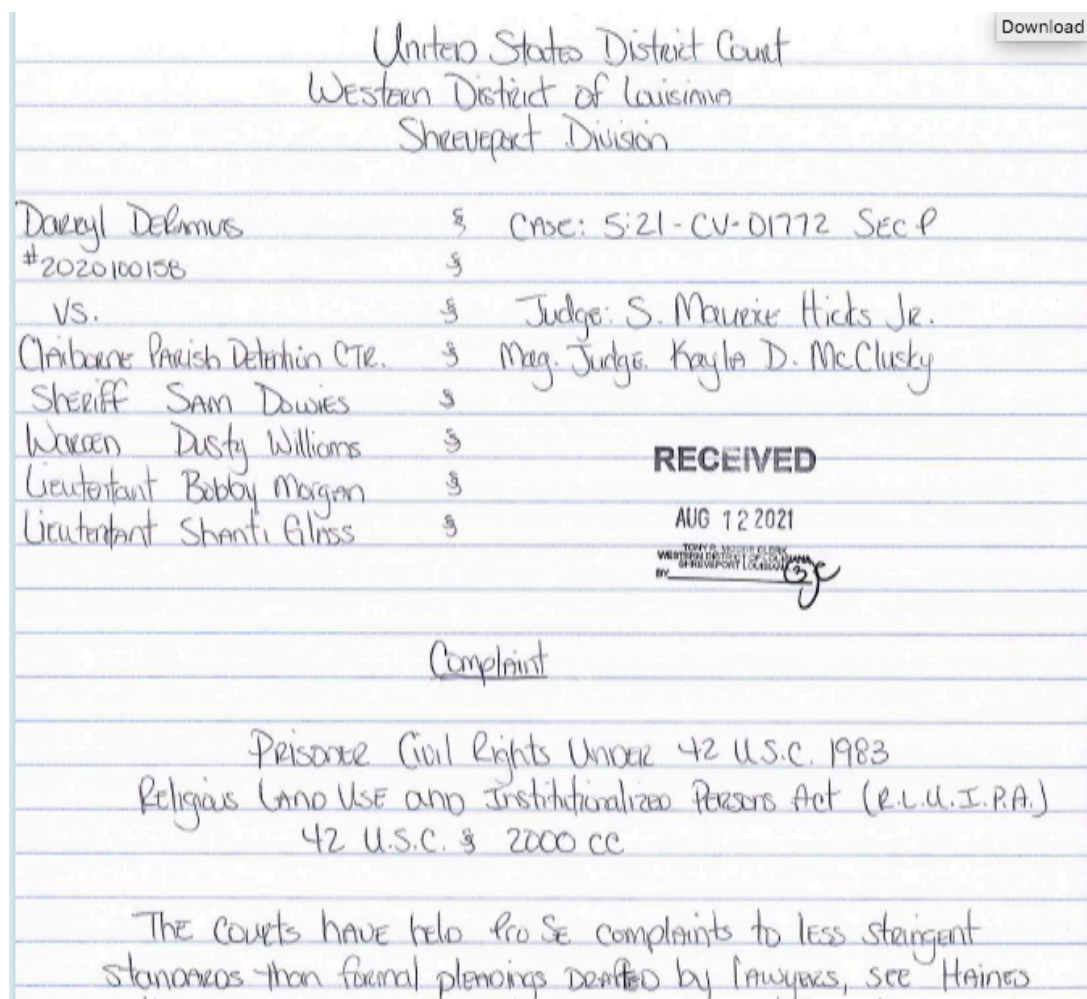
¹³⁷ *Id.*

¹³⁸ *Id.*

¹³⁹ *Deramus v. Claiborne Parish Detention Center*, 5:2021-CV-02566 (W.D. La. 8/12/2021).

¹⁴⁰ *Id.*

until he cut his hair.¹⁴¹ While he was in isolated segregation, he was not allowed to use the phone, order stationary, or have basic hygiene items such as a toothbrush.¹⁴² Mr. Deramus further alleges that he was denied access to the law library and mail sent to him pertaining to this legal matter was improperly and unjustly held by the facility.¹⁴³ As of November 22, 2021, the status of the case is pending awaiting response to Mr. Deramus's court-ordered amended complaint.¹⁴⁴



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Additionally, on August 19, 2021, Christopher Smith, an inmate at Claiborne Parish Detention Center, filed a complaint against the facility and the Claiborne Parish Sheriff for deliberate indifference, seeking relief for pain and suffering, mental anguish, and cruel and unusual treatment, as well as requesting the court to order a full investigation into the conditions and management of Claiborne Parish Detention Center.¹⁴⁶ In his complaint, Mr. Smith states that

¹⁴¹ *Id.*

¹⁴² *Id.*

¹⁴³ *Id.*

¹⁴⁴ *Id.*

¹⁴⁵ Picture of handwritten pro se complaint filed by Mr. Deramus. Docketbird image from *Deramus v. Claiborne Parish Detention Center*, 5:2021-CV-02566 (W.D. La. 8/12/2021).

¹⁴⁶ *Smith v. Claiborne Parish Detention Center*, 5:2021-CV-02651 (W.D. La. 8/19/2021).

he was transferred to Claiborne Parish Detention Center in the summer of 2020 with a pre-existing and medically diagnosed hernia which required medical care and attention.¹⁴⁷ After seeing a physician and learning he had two hernias that would require surgery, he continued to urge medical staff at the facility to give him information on his condition and the timeline for his treatment, as he was in considerable pain.¹⁴⁸ Mr. Smith cites numerous occasions where he requested information from the medical staff and received no reply, was dismissed, and was told “nothing was wrong with him,” despite outside medical professionals continuously affirming his medical condition.¹⁴⁹ Mr. Smith states that he has been in constant pain for over a year now, and claims Claiborne Parish Detention Center has displayed negligence in his medical treatment causing him sixteen months and counting of constant pain.¹⁵⁰ Additionally, Mr. Smith states that three inmates have died in the facility this year, specifically detailing that one inmate died in his bed in the dormitory after complaining of chest pains and requesting medical care with no response from the staff.¹⁵¹ Mr. Smith states in his complaint, “I feel I won’t survive in this facility. The mental anguish has been very very overwhelming and uncomprehensible.”¹⁵² Mr. Smith has filed a case against Claiborne Parish Detention Center and the Claiborne Parish Sheriff pro se.¹⁵³ This matter is still pending, awaiting response from the facility regarding Mr. Smith’s complaint.¹⁵⁴

CONCLUSION

Claiborne Parish Detention Center has endured criticism and reform within recent years. Although there have been numerous incidents cited against facility administration and staff, perhaps the recently elected sheriff will act as a positive change for the facility, working towards policy and managerial reform in order to avoid further scrutiny and provide a safer environment for inmates.



¹⁴⁷ *Id.*

¹⁴⁸ *Id.*

¹⁴⁹ *Id.*

¹⁵⁰ *Id.*

¹⁵¹ *Id.*

¹⁵² *Id.*

¹⁵³ *Id.*

¹⁵⁴ *Id.*