



Intake Processing Unit Impact Case Blocks, March 2026 – May 2026 *Published in July 2026*

The Office of the Inspector General (the OIG), as part of our statute, maintains an Intake Processing Unit that receives complaints from the incarcerated population and the public. Staff in the Intake Processing Unit respond to complaints the OIG receives through U.S. postal mail, phone calls (toll-free hotline), and inquiries through our website, which can exceed 1,100 monthly claims. Below are 12 complaints the Intake Processing Unit reviewed from March 2026 through May 2026. These cases highlight the OIG's impact and efforts to resolve the complainant's concerns.

Incident Date

December 4, 2025

Case Type

Disciplinary

Mission

Division of Adult Institutions: Region IV (Rancho Cucamonga Area)

OIG Case Number

26-0107498-PI

Complaint Summary

On February 19, 2026, the OIG received a complaint from an incarcerated person (complainant) alleging he had been unjustly removed from his position as an incarcerated person advisory council (IPAC) representative.¹ The complainant also alleged he had filed a grievance that was not appropriately addressed.

OIG Actions

The OIG reviewed departmental records and found that on December 4, 2025, the complainant received a rules violation report (RVR) for possession of a mobile phone. According to the RVR, during an interfacility sporting event, an officer observed the complainant taking photos of the event with a mobile phone before returning the mobile phone to a departmental staff member. On January 5, 2026, the RVR hearing was held, and the hearing officer considered the staff member's statement accepting responsibility for permitting the complainant access to the mobile phone. However, the hearing officer determined that the staff member's statement taking responsibility did not mitigate or diminish the complainant's involvement in the incident. The complainant was found guilty, and the department imposed a 90-day loss of credit.² On January 15, 2026, the complainant was removed from his position as an IPAC representative.

Between January 14, 2026, and March 5, 2026, the complainant filed several grievances contesting the RVR and disputing his removal from the IPAC; however, all grievances were rejected or denied.

On March 12, 2026, based on the circumstances of the RVR and the staff member's acceptance of responsibility, the OIG requested that the warden rereview the RVR and consider dismissal in the interest of justice. We also recommended the warden reconsider the complainant's removal from his position on the IPAC.

1. Incarcerated person advisory councils (IPACs) serve to advise the warden and other staff and communicate with them about matters of common interest and concern to incarcerated people.

2. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation may impose a loss of credits due to a prison rule violation, which extends an incarcerated person's sentence and delays their release date.





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On the same day, the warden notified the OIG that the RVR had been rereviewed and would not be dismissed. The warden stated that once the complainant took control of the mobile phone, he was in possession of contraband. The warden also asserted that the complainant could not use the fact that the mobile phone was received from a staff member as a defense.

On March 17, 2026, the OIG requested an associate director review the RVR and consider dismissal in the interest of justice. We also recommended the associate director reconsider the complainant's removal from his position on the IPAC.

On April 6, 2026, the OIG followed up with the associate director to inquire about the outcome of the review of the RVR. On the same day, the associate director notified the OIG that the request for dismissal or mitigation of the RVR in the interest of justice had been denied. The associate director explained that the complainant knowingly accepted and used the mobile phone, satisfying the elements of possession and use of dangerous contraband under departmental policy. The associate director also indicated the staff member had received corrective action based on his involvement in the incident.

On May 19, 2026, OIG management elevated the concerns to the Director of the Division of Adult Institutions and requested that the RVR be reviewed and dismissal be considered in the interest of justice.

Disposition

The director evaluated the OIG's concerns and on May 26, 2026, the RVR was voided in the interest of justice. The department also reevaluated the staff member's role and issued the employee a formal counseling record. The complainant was not reassigned to the IPAC position he had held prior to the incident.

Incident Date

November 23, 2025

Case Type

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

Mission

Division of Adult Institutions: Region III (Bakersfield Area) and Region IV (Rancho Cucamonga Area)

OIG Case Number

26-0106694-PI

Complaint Summary

On January 23, 2026, the OIG received a complaint from an incarcerated person (complainant) alleging he was being held in the restricted housing unit as a suspect in a sexual assault (PREA allegation) of his cellmate that allegedly occurred 25 years ago. The complainant claimed the PREA allegation was false and that he was never housed at the prison where the alleged sexual assault occurred.

OIG Actions

The OIG reviewed departmental records and found the complainant had been placed in the restricted housing unit on November 23, 2025, based on a PREA allegation identifying the complainant as a suspect in a sexual assault that occurred approximately 25 years ago. Based on our review, the complainant and the alleged PREA victim were celled together for one day in 2009 at a different prison.



We located documentation indicating that on November 24, 2025, the PREA investigation was referred from the Region IV prison where the allegation was reported, to a Region III prison where the alleged incident may have occurred. The PREA allegation was referred to the Region III prison because the complainant and the alleged PREA victim were both housed in the same facility at this Region III prison in 2005 and 2006. On December 30, 2025, we found the complainant filed a grievance contesting his placement in the restricted housing unit, and on January 30, 2026, the Office of Grievances denied the claim, indicating the individual's retention in the restricted housing unit was appropriate based on the pending PREA investigation. Furthermore, as of February 26, 2026, we could not locate documentation indicating the investigation had been completed.

On February 26, 2026, the OIG contacted the PREA compliance manager (PCM) at the Region III prison to determine the status of the investigation. On the same day, the PCM notified the OIG that they never received the allegation from the Region IV prison and subsequently reached out to the Region IV prison for more information.

On March 11, 2026, we reviewed departmental records and found the complainant remained housed in the restricted housing unit after 108 days, and there was no documentation indicating the PREA investigation had been completed. On the same day, we followed up with the PCM at the Region III prison again to determine the status of the PREA investigation.

Disposition

On March 12, 2026, the PCM at the Region III prison notified the OIG that they completed their part of the PREA investigation and forwarded the documents to the Region IV prison for disposition. The Region IV prison found the allegations to be unsubstantiated.

Due to the unsubstantiated PREA allegation, on March 13, 2026, the complainant was released from the restricted housing unit.

Incident Date

February 19, 2026

Case Type

Safety Concern: Contraband

Mission

Division of Adult Institutions: Region II (Fresno Area)

OIG Case Number

26-0107475-PI

Complaint Summary

On February 19, 2026, the OIG received a complaint from a citizen (complainant) alleging an incarcerated person had mobile phones and drugs in his cell.

OIG Actions

The OIG reviewed departmental records and located numerous rules violation reports (RVRs) for possession of contraband. We did not locate documentation indicating the department had been aware that the incarcerated person allegedly possessed mobile phones and drugs.

On February 20, 2026, the OIG notified the warden of the possible contraband.



Disposition

On February 20, 2026, within three hours of the OIG's notification, the investigative services unit searched the incarcerated person's cell with a search canine and located a mobile phone. The incarcerated person received an RVR for possession of a mobile phone. On March 5, 2026, the incarcerated person was found guilty, and the department imposed a 90-day loss of credits.

Incident Date

December 24, 2025

Case Type

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

Mission

Division of Adult Institutions: Region IV (Rancho Cucamonga)

OIG Case Number

26-0106485-PI

Complaint Summary

On January 16, 2026, the OIG received a complaint from an incarcerated person (complainant) alleging that on December 24, 2025, he reported to staff that his previous cellmate threatened him and tried to rape him on two separate occasions. The complainant stated he submitted multiple grievances; however, departmental staff took no further action.

OIG Actions

The OIG reviewed departmental records and found that on December 24, 2025, the complainant filed a grievance alleging his previous cellmate sexually assaulted him. On the same day, a sergeant interviewed the complainant. According to documentation of the interview, the complainant alleged that on two separate occasions, his prior cellmate assaulted and threatened to rape him. The sergeant determined the events were incidental to an altercation and concluded the allegations did not meet PREA criteria because the complainant "was not actually penetrated by the suspect."

However, the OIG found the allegation appeared to meet PREA criteria for sexual harassment between incarcerated people. Federal PREA Standard 115.6 states that sexual harassment includes repeated and unwelcome sexual advances and requests for sexual favors directed toward an incarcerated person. Thus, on February 2, 2026, the OIG asked the prison's PREA Compliance Manager (PCM) to explain why the allegations did not meet PREA criteria.

The OIG attempted to contact the prison PCM multiple times. On March 3, 2026, the PCM indicated that on January 13, 2026, the sergeant received training on PREA reporting. Further, the PCM provided the OIG with a revised document stating that the allegations did not meet PREA criteria because the contact occurred during physical altercations and was not considered abusive sexual contact. The revised document still did not address the allegation of sexual harassment.

On March 9, 2026, the OIG contacted the PCM, prison management, and the department's PREA headquarters staff requesting the reason the allegation did not meet PREA criteria for investigation of sexual harassment.

Disposition

On March 9, 2026, the investigative services unit notified the OIG that the sergeant received training in identifying PREA allegations, and the PCM directed the investigative services unit to open a PREA investigation regarding the sexual harassment allegation.



Incident Date

March 5, 2026

Case Type

Safety Concern: Contraband

Mission

Division of Adult Institutions: Region II (Fresno Area)

OIG Case Number

26-0107889-PI

Complaint Summary

On March 5, 2026, the OIG received a complaint from a third party (complainant) alleging an incarcerated person had a mobile phone and had been using it to access social media and make unwanted calls.

OIG Actions

The OIG reviewed departmental records and located several rules violation reports (RVRs) for possession of a mobile phone. We did not locate documentation indicating the department had been aware that the incarcerated person allegedly possessed another mobile phone and had been using it to access social media and make calls.

On March 6, 2026, the OIG notified the warden of the possible contraband mobile phone.

Disposition

On March 6, 2026, within two hours of the OIG's notification, an officer searched the incarcerated person's cell and located a mobile phone, mobile phone accessories, and alcohol. The incarcerated person received an RVR for possession of a mobile phone, and on April 5, 2026, he was found guilty, and the department imposed a 90-day loss of credits. The incarcerated person also received an RVR for possession of alcohol, and on March 20, 2026, he was found guilty, and the department imposed a 91-day loss of credits.

Incident Date

April 19, 2026

Case Type

Safety Concern: Contraband

Mission

Division of Adult Institutions: Region III (Bakersfield Area)

OIG Case Number

26-0109349-PI

Complaint Summary

On April 19, 2026, the OIG received a complaint from an anonymous incarcerated person (complainant) alleging that two incarcerated people had mobile phones. The complainant did not provide the names of the incarcerated people; however, the complainant provided their housing locations.

OIG Actions

The OIG reviewed departmental records and identified the two incarcerated people who allegedly possessed the contraband mobile phones.

On April 21, 2026, the OIG notified the warden of the possible contraband mobile phones.



Disposition

On April 21, 2026, within one hour of our notification, officers searched both incarcerated people's cells. Officers found two mobile phones in the first incarcerated person's cell and one makeshift weapon in the second incarcerated person's cell. The weapon measured approximately three inches in length and approximately one inch in width. It appeared to be fashioned from melted clear plastic with a razor blade affixed to one end and melted plastic at the opposite end, which served as a handle.

The first incarcerated person received a rules violation report (RVR) for possession of a mobile phone, and on May 18, 2026, the incarcerated person was found guilty, and the department imposed a 61-day loss of credits. The second incarcerated person received an RVR on April 21, 2026 for possession of a deadly weapon. The prison referred the case to the district attorney for possible criminal prosecution and postponed the RVR hearing pending a response from the district attorney.

Incident Date

March 10, 2026

Case Type

Safety Concern; Contraband

Mission

Division of Adult Institutions: Region I (Sacramento Area) and Region IV (Rancho Cucamonga Area)

OIG Case Number

26-0108070-PI

Complaint Summary

On March 10, 2026, the OIG received a complaint from a third party (complainant) alleging an incarcerated person had safety concerns based on information shared online by a second incarcerated person. Specifically, the complainant reported the second incarcerated person posted images of departmental records labeling the first incarcerated person as a "snitch," which went viral and was shared and viewed numerous times.

OIG Actions

The OIG reviewed departmental records and identified the involved incarcerated people. The first incarcerated person was currently housed in the restricted housing unit in a Region I prison for an incident unrelated to the complaint we received, and the second incarcerated person was housed at a Region IV prison.

On March 12, 2026, the OIG contacted the complainant, who provided additional information including screenshots from the second incarcerated person's social media account. The social media post showed a departmental document in which the first incarcerated person directly identified a third incarcerated person as an assailant in an incident. The post also included a photo of the first incarcerated person and a caption with his known moniker and images of a rat (considered as slang for labeling someone as an informant or "snitch").

On March 13, 2026, the OIG notified the wardens of the prisons where each of the incarcerated people were housed of the possible safety concern.

On April 17, 2026, the OIG followed up with both prisons to determine what action was taken based on the OIG's notification. On the same day, custody staff from the Region IV prison interviewed the second incarcerated person about safety concerns at the Region I prison.



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There was no indication that the second incarcerated person's cell had been searched for the device being used to post on social media.

On April 20, 2026, the representative from the Region I prison indicated the investigation into the safety concern was ongoing.

On May 12, 2026, the OIG reviewed departmental records and did not locate documentation indicating action had been taken by the Region IV prison to locate the device used to post on social media. We also identified social media activity as recently as May 1, 2026. Therefore, on May 12, 2026, and May 27, 2026, the OIG followed up with the prison to determine whether the second incarcerated person's cell had been searched for the device. We also shared information about the recent social media activity.

Disposition

On April 27, 2026, a representative from the Region I prison provided a confidential memorandum documenting the completion of a thorough investigation into the first incarcerated person's safety concern. Based on a review of the confidential memorandum, the safety concern was substantiated, and a confidential offender-separation alert was affixed between the first and second incarcerated person, thereby restricting the incarcerated people from being housed on the same facility.

On May 27, 2026, the investigative services unit at the Region IV prison searched the second incarcerated person's cell using a search canine and located two mobile phones. The second incarcerated person received a rules violation report (RVR) for possession of a mobile phone. On June 10, 2026, an officer provided the second incarcerated person with a copy of the RVR. On July 3, 2026, the second incarcerated person was found guilty of possession of a mobile phone, and the department imposed a 90-day loss of credits.

Incident Date

March 11, 2026

Case Type

Safety Concerns

Mission

Division of Adult Institutions: Region I (Sacramento Area)

OIG Case Number

26-0108074-PI

Complaint Summary

On March 11, 2026, the OIG received a complaint from an incarcerated person (complainant) alleging four incarcerated people had been threatening, physically assaulting, and extorting him for money. The complainant alleged the situation had been escalating and that the incarcerated people targeting him had shown him weapons.

OIG Actions

The OIG reviewed departmental records and found the complainant had previously been extorted by incarcerated people.

On March 12, 2026, the OIG notified the warden of the safety concerns.



Disposition

On March 12, 2026, the prison rehoused the complainant in the restricted housing unit due to the alleged safety concerns. The investigative services unit concluded that the complainant had safety concerns with four incarcerated people. Confidential offender-separation alerts were affixed between the complainant and the other involved incarcerated people, thereby restricting them from being housed in the same facility. On March 20, 2026, the complainant was transferred to another prison.

Incident Date

May 3, 2026

Case Type

Safety Concern: Contraband

Mission

Division of Adult Institutions: Region I

OIG Case Number

26-0109875-PI

Complaint Summary

On May 3, 2026, the OIG received a complaint from a citizen (complainant) alleging an incarcerated person had been using a mobile phone to make unwanted calls and send messages to her daughter while the incarcerated person was under the influence.

OIG Actions

The OIG reviewed departmental records and located one recent rules violation report (RVR) for possession of a mobile phone. We did not locate documentation indicating the department had been aware that the incarcerated person may have been in possession of a contraband mobile phone.

On May 5, 2026, the OIG notified the warden of the possible contraband and shared that the incarcerated person allegedly had been making unwanted calls and sending messages to members of the public while under the influence.

Disposition

On May 5, 2026, within one hour of the OIG's notification, the investigative services unit searched the incarcerated person and his cell using a search canine and located a mobile phone and controlled substances. The incarcerated person received RVRs for possession of a mobile phone and a controlled substance. On May 26, 2026, the incarcerated person was found guilty of possession of a mobile phone, and the department imposed an 80-day loss of credits. On June 16, 2026, the incarcerated person was found guilty of possession of a controlled substance, and the department imposed a 130-day loss of credits.

Incident Date

January 17, 2026

Case Type

Safety Concern

Mission

Division of Adult Institutions: Region III (Bakersfield Area)



OIG Case Number

26-0106510-PI

Complaint Summary

From January 17, 2026, through January 19, 2026, the OIG received complaints from an incarcerated person (complainant) alleging he had safety concerns and believed staff and incarcerated people had been conspiring to murder him.

OIG Actions

The OIG reviewed departmental records, which indicated that before contacting the OIG, on January 5, 2026, the complainant had been placed in the restricted housing unit based on his safety concerns. Medical records indicated that on January 13, 2026, the incarcerated person expressed safety concerns to mental health staff. On January 14, 2026, custody staff completed the investigation and concluded the complainant's safety concerns were unfounded. The complainant was returned to the same housing unit.

On January 20, 2026, the OIG notified the warden and the chief of mental health of the complainant's safety concerns.

From January 21, 2026, through January 23, 2026, the OIG received additional complaints from the complainant alleging continued safety concerns.

On January 23, 2026, the OIG did not locate documentation showing the department had acted in response to the OIG's safety notification. The complainant had remained housed in the same location since January 14, 2026. On January 23, 2026, the OIG contacted the watch commander, forwarded the OIG's prior safety notification regarding the complainant's safety concerns, and requested that the ongoing safety concerns be reviewed.

Disposition

On January 23, 2026, after the OIG's second notification, a sergeant notified the OIG that staff interviewed the complainant and rehoused him in the restricted housing unit pending an investigation into his safety concerns. Within one week, custody staff completed the investigation and determined the complainant had localized safety concerns and enemy concerns (restricted to one prison or facility) with four incarcerated people. Confidential offender-separation alerts were placed in the electronic central file of the complainant and the four incarcerated people. The complainant remained in restricted housing unit until he was transferred to a different prison on March 10, 2026.

Incident Date

May 16, 2026

Case Type

Safety Concerns: Contraband

Mission

Division of Adult Institutions: Region III (Bakersfield Area)

OIG Case Number

26-0110275-PI

Complaint Summary

On May 16, 2026, and May 17, 2026, the OIG received complaints from an anonymous source (complainant) alleging an incarcerated person had a mobile phone in his cell. The complainant provided the incarcerated person's housing location and job assignment and stated the incarcerated person had been assigned to a single cell.



OIG Actions

The OIG reviewed departmental records and identified the incarcerated person. The OIG did not locate documentation indicating the department had been aware the incarcerated person allegedly possessed a mobile phone.

On May 19, 2026, the OIG notified the warden of the possible contraband mobile phone.

Disposition

On May 19, 2026, within four hours of the OIG's notification, custody staff searched the incarcerated person's cell and located a mobile phone. The incarcerated person received a rules violation report for possession of a mobile phone. On June 23, 2026, he was found guilty, and the department imposed a 61-day loss of credits.

Incident Date

February 9, 2026

Case Type

Release Date Calculation

Mission

Division of Adult Institutions: Region III (Bakersfield Area)

OIG Case Number

26-0107675-PI

Complaint Summary

On February 26, 2026, the OIG received a complaint from an incarcerated person (complainant) alleging he was scheduled to parole on March 20, 2026; however, he was rehoused in the restricted housing unit based on a statement by a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW). The complainant claimed he had never spoken to the clinician. Because of the restricted housing unit placement, the complainant's credit-earning rate was changed, and his release date was extended.

OIG Actions

The OIG reviewed departmental records and found that on February 9, 2026, the complainant had been rehoused in the restricted housing unit based on statements by an LCSW who determined that the complainant could not "program safely" (due to a high risk of being attacked) on the minimum support facility based on the complainant's "behavior, current functioning, and his history of mental health concerns."³ Prison documentation also indicated that the complainant could not be released to an alternate facility because a documented enemy was also being housed at that facility; however, a review of the complainant's documented enemies did not indicate any enemies were housed at the prison. The OIG also reviewed medical and mental health records and did not locate documentation of an encounter with the LCSW or the reason for the restricted housing unit placement. Departmental records also indicated that on February 19, 2026, the complainant's release date was changed from March 20, 2026, to April 10, 2026, based on a lower credit-earning rate resulting from the complainant's restricted housing unit placement.

On February 27, 2026, the OIG contacted the prison to obtain additional information related to the reason for the complainant's restricted housing unit placement.

3. The department has specialized housing placement, such as a Level I, minimum support facility (MSF), that are located outside the main security perimeter of prisons.



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On March 11, 2026, the OIG followed up with the prison for a status of the prior request for information. On March 12, 2026, the prison representative provided documentation indicating that unidentified custody staff expressed concerns to an LCSW about the complainant's "potential instability and behavior (increased aggression towards other incarcerated people, yelling, and bullying of others) . . ." The LCSW also indicated that despite the complainant's actions not rising to the level of a rules violation report, they were concerned for the well-being of other incarcerated people and the complainant's risk of escape from the minimum support facility. The LCSW recommended the complainant be transferred to a more secure environment until his scheduled release on March 20, 2026. The prison representative also indicated that based on the most recent classification review, the complainant could be released from the restricted housing unit to an alternate facility; however, the decision was deferred to the restricted housing unit correctional counselors.

On March 12, 2026, the OIG requested clarification regarding the complainant's release from the restricted housing unit to an alternate facility. On March 18, 2026, we reviewed departmental records and determined the complainant remained housed in the restricted housing unit. Thus, we followed up with the prison representative for a status of the complainant's possible release to an alternate facility.

On March 18, 2026, the prison representative reported that the complainant had not been scheduled for review by the classification committee but would be scheduled as soon as reasonably possible.

Disposition

On March 19, 2026, the complainant was seen by the classification committee and, on the same day, was released to the alternate facility at the same prison. On March 20, 2026, the complainant's credit earning rate and release date were adjusted, and on April 5, 2026, the complainant was released from prison.