



Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department
Custody Services Division

CUSTODY INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES UNIT

Custody Investigative Services Unit (CISU) supports Custody and Court Services Division's through investigative services promoting the safety, security, and welfare for staff, inmates, and all citizens of the County of Los Angeles. With fifty-six professional and sworn staff, personnel work in a variety of assignments, from conducting searches with our narcotic detection dogs, investigating crimes within our custody facilities, or transporting high valued target inmates to and from court or state prisons.

Listed are the details within CISU followed by a brief description of their function. They include:

Operation Safe Jails
Jail Liaison

Prison Gang Liaison
Jail Investigative Unit

Custody K-9
Narcotics Unit:

Operation Safe Jails:

The primary responsibility of Operation Safe Jails (OSJ) is to gather information, conduct threat assessments and "Special Investigations" on issues which may impact the safety and security of Custody Operations Division facilities, Correctional Support Services Division facilities, and Court Services Division facilities. OSJ enforcement is aimed at combating the criminal activities of inmate gang members and, at the same time, moving to discourage other inmates from continuing in gang activities. Personnel primary focus on gang members housed and/or confined within our purview. OSJ may liaison with other law enforcement agencies that have on-going criminal investigations involving inmates in the jails. OSJ conducts threat assessment investigations on individual inmates as well as groups of inmates, to assist individual facility commanders with safety and security issues. OSJ may assist other law enforcement agencies with "Special Investigations" as approved by the Unit Commander. OSJ shall also investigate all requests for inmates who are considered special handles.

Prison Gang Liaison:

The Prison Gang Liaison detail is responsible for monitoring the activity of known or suspected gang members of organized prison groups. They serve as the liaison to Major Crimes Bureau detectives, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) personnel, and Federal agencies in sharing prison gang intelligence throughout California, and the coordinated transportation of high security risk prisoners, also known as High Valued Targets (HVT), from CDCR facilities to courts in the County of Los Angeles.

Jail Liaison:

Jail Liaison personnel are responsible for investigating all requests for inmates considered to be special handles. At the conclusion of their investigation, Jail Liaison personnel shall determine if the request for the Special Handle meets the criteria for housing status. If the inmate does not meet the criteria, the inmate shall be declassified and referred to the Inmate Reception Center's (IRC) Central Housing unit (CHU) for appropriate housing. In addition personnel will facilitate Law Enforcement interviews for all in-custody inmates occurring inside any jail facility under the control of Custody Operations Division.



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Custody K-9:

Custody K-9 personnel conduct continual and random searches of all custody facility areas, including court lockups. The canines are certified to detect drugs and jail made alcoholic beverages (Also known as Pruno). The detail works in conjunction with the Unit Commanders of each facility and their staff to detect and locate contraband within our jail system.



Jail Investigative Unit:

The Jail Investigative Services Unit (JIU) investigates all crimes (Other than death investigations which are conducted by Homicide Bureau) that are committed by inmates within any Department Custody Operations Division facility, Custody Services Division facility, Court Services Division, courtroom lock-up areas, and Correctional Services Transportation Bureau vehicles traveling within Los Angeles County. JIU investigates thousands of crimes each year and presents those crimes to the District Attorney's office for filing consideration.



Narcotics Unit:

The Narcotics Unit investigates all drug related crimes within the County jails. In addition, the Unit conducts undercover surveillance of known or suspected drug dealers who have been identified through jail investigations.

On a daily basis, investigators conduct investigations involving narcotics (recoveries, possession, possession for sales, smuggling) throughout all of our custodial facilities, transportation buses and Court buildings. Investigators often work hand-in-hand with OSJ personnel on operations and intelligence gathering.

They also conduct self-generated cases regarding organized crime, etc. In addition to investigating these cases, the investigators file cases and attend court at numerous courts throughout the County.