

National News Briefs;

I.N.S. Officers Accused Of Sex With Detainees

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Body

Officials are investigating accusations that Immigration and Naturalization Service officers at a detention center here had sexual contact with detainees. At least two officers at the center, the Krome Service Processing Center, have been reassigned.

Among the accusations: A transsexual detainee complained of having been sexually assaulted twice by an officer; and a female detainee who became pregnant while at the center said that it was because a guard had sex with her. Another woman who became pregnant while at the center said she had sex with a fellow detainee.

No names were released, and the authorities did not say how many officers were under investigation.

The accusations were referred to the agency's Office of Internal Audit and the Justice Department's inspector general, said Maria Elena Garcia, a spokeswoman for the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Miami.

Consensual sex between prison or detention officers and their wards is a misdemeanor under federal law, and a felony under Florida law, according to the Justice Department.

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