

Immigrant Rights and Useful Information

Immigration Raids

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) immigration raids are currently happening. Raids are when immigration agents suddenly arrest people at home, work, or on the street. It is important to know your rights, so you can protect yourself if immigration tries to arrest you.

- ICE usually arrests people early in the morning when they are leaving for school or work.
- If ICE tries to talk to you, do not give them your name or any personal information.
- If ICE comes to your home, do not open the door.
- ICE does not have the right to enter your home or search your belongings, unless a judge gives them permission. This permission is called a “warrant.” If ICE comes to your home, ask them to see the “warrant” by sliding it under the door or holding it up to a window.
- If ICE enters your home forcefully or tries to arrest you, stay calm, do not resist, and do not answer any questions. Tell anyone that is with you not to answer questions.
- Do not sign anything without talking with your immigration attorney first.
- If you get arrested by ICE, remember that you have a right to fight your case in immigration court if you have been in the United States for more than two years.
- If you have a “Know Your Rights” card and ICE tries to arrest you, slide the card under the door or hold it up to a window. Do not do anything else.

Proof of Physical Presence

If you have been in the United States for less than two years, you can be deported without seeing an immigration judge. If you have been here longer than two years, you should carry proof of your presence beyond two years. This includes:

- Utility Bills
- Medical Records
- Rent/Lease Agreements
- School Records
- Financial Records
- Religious Records

Immigration Executive Orders and Legislation

- President Trump signed an Executive Order that permits for a large amount of immigrants to be removed from the United States, not just those with criminal records.
- SB4 is a bill that is currently before the Texas Legislature. It has not passed as a law yet.
 - This bill would permit police officers to ask about a person’s immigration status.

Family Plan Preparation

Have a Family Plan prepared in case you or a family member is arrested in an ICE raid. A Family Plan includes the following:

- Pick a responsible adult who will care for your child(ren) if you are arrested by ICE.
- Give that person's information to your child(ren)'s school or daycare, so this person can pick them up if you cannot.
- Make a file with important documents, such as: birth certificates, medical information, passports, and emergency contact information for family members.
- You may want to talk to an attorney about making someone Power of Attorney. Power of Attorney means that person can make legal, financial, and medical decisions for your child(ren) while you cannot.

Useful Information

- If you have a valid work permit or green card, carry it with you at all times.
- Do not carry any false identity or immigration documents with you.
- Do not carry documentation about your country of origin with you.
- Carry the telephone number of an immigration attorney at all times.
- To find a low-cost or free attorney, visit this page online: <https://www.immigrationlawhelp.org/>.
 - To translate the page into a different language: Find the small white box at the top right of the page where it says "Choose Language", then click on the language you prefer.
- You should consult with an immigration attorney as soon as possible about legal remedies, such as: asylum, family petitions, and different visas.
- If you have filed an immigration petition or have ever been arrested by immigration before, you will have an alien number (ID) that immigration has assigned to you. This number will have nine digits, and begins with the number 0 or 2. (Ex. A #200-001-001)
- If you have an alien number, call the immigration court hotline at 1-800-898-7180 to confirm that you are in the system and to get information about your case, including court information. Press two for instructions in Spanish and have your alien number ready.
- If you have an alien number, share it with your family so they can find you if you are arrested by immigration. They can search for you online at this page: <https://locator.ice.gov/odls/homePage.do>.
 - To translate the page into a different language: Find the small white box near the top left of the page where it says "English", and click on the language you want. Then click on the arrow next to the box.