

ICE ENCOUNTER GUIDE

Know Your Rights & How to Help

Distributed by concerned neighbors in your community

This guide is FREE to print, share, and distribute



QUICK REFERENCE: IF ICE SHOWS UP

IN PUBLIC

- Stay calm—do NOT run
 - Ask: "Am I under arrest or free to leave?"
 - SAY NOTHING except your name if required
 - Record everything (audio/video) if safe
 - Get badge numbers and witness info
 - Call a lawyer IMMEDIATELY
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AT HOME

- DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR
 - Ask through door: "Do you have a judicial warrant signed by a judge?"
 - If NO judicial warrant: You can refuse entry
 - If they enter anyway, state: "I do not consent to this search"
 - DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING
 - Call your lawyer right away
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IF DETAINED

- Say: "I want to speak to a lawyer"
- Say: "I want to contact my country's consulate"
- STOP TALKING after requesting lawyer
- Request bond hearing (especially if not charged with crime)
- Contact family to get legal help

EMERGENCY CONTACTS - KEEP THESE NUMBERS

NATIONAL HOTLINES (Call or Share)

National Immigration Detention Hotline

- From inside detention: Dial 9233# (Available Mon-Fri, 8am-8pm PT / 11am-11pm ET)
- Website: freedomforimmigrants.org/hotline
- Provides: Support, legal info, connection to loved ones, abuse documentation

Immigration Equality Emergency Hotline (LGBTQ+ Immigrants)

- Phone: 1-212-714-2904 (Weekdays, daytime hours)

United We Dream National Hotline

- Phone: 1-844-3DREAM2 (1-844-337-3262)

American Bar Association Detention & Law of Procedure Line

- Phone: 1-202-442-3363
- Provides: Pro se assistance, legal information, detainee help

Immigration Scam Hotline

- Phone: 1-833-38V-SAFE (1-833-387-7233)

OHIO-SPECIFIC RESOURCES

CRIS (Community Refugee & Immigration Services) - Columbus

- Phone: 614-235-5747
- Address: 1010 W. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43220
- Services: Legal aid, asylum help, employment support
- Hours: Call for hours

LASCO (Legal Aid of Southeast & Central Ohio)

- Phone: 614-221-7201
- Address: 536 Norton Road, Columbus, OH 43228
- Services: Immigration legal assistance, know-your-rights training
- Website: lasco.org

OSU Moritz Immigration Clinic - Columbus

- Phone: (614) 292-7176
- Services: Free legal representation for deportation cases

Columbus Legal Aid Society

- Phone: 614-241-2001
- Services: Free legal assistance to low-income residents

Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati (Southern Ohio)

- Phone: 513-241-2001

Catholic Charities Immigration Services

- Multiple Ohio locations
- Services: Immigration legal help, refugee services
- Website: catholiccharitiesusa.org

HOW TO FIND A DETAINED LOVED ONE

STEP 1: Use the ICE Detainee Locator

Website: [ice.gov/locate](https://ice.dhs.gov/locate) (or search online for "ICE detainee locator")

Search by:

- A-Number (from green card, work permit, or immigration court papers), OR
- Full name (exact spelling), country of birth, and birth date

Important:

- Name must be entered EXACTLY as the government has it (case-sensitive)
 - May take 24+ hours for name to appear in system
 - Try different versions if not found (different name order, different spelling, etc.)
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STEP 2: Call the ICE Bond and DHS Records Line

- Phone: 1-800-898-7180 (English & Spanish)
- Have ready: Person's A-Number (or name/birthdate)
- Ask for: Facility location, bond amount, release date

STEP 3: Call U.S. CBP (Border Patrol) if Detained at Border/Entry

- Phone: 1-866-347-2423
 - Ask for person's status and location
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STEP 4: Contact the Detention Facility Directly

Once you know the facility:

1. Call facility directly for visiting hours
2. Ask about commissary (money you can send)
3. Ask about phone privileges
4. Get facility phone number for detainee to call out
5. Ask how to add money to phone account for calls

STEP 5: Get Legal Help to Challenge Detention

- Contact CRIS (614-235-5747) or LASCO (614-221-7201) in Ohio
- Ask about habeas corpus petitions
- A judge might order release if detention is unlawful
- Person has right to bond hearing

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE: WARRANTS

ICE Can Enter Your Home With:

-  Judicial Warrant = signed by a judge (says "U.S. District Court" or "Superior Court")
- This looks like a regular court document with judge's signature

ICE CANNOT Lawfully Enter With:

-  Administrative Warrant = signed only by ICE official (says "Department of Homeland Security")
- This is NOT a judicial warrant
- You can refuse entry even if they show this

If in doubt:

- Ask them to slip it under the door
- Check for judge's signature
- If no judge signed it, you can refuse entry
- If uncertain, say: "I do not consent to entry"

WHAT ICE CAN & CANNOT DO

ICE CAN:

- Ask questions (you don't have to answer)
 - Request papers/documents (you can refuse)
 - Detain you if they have administrative warrant AND probable cause
 - Search your person in public areas
 - Search you if lawfully arrested
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ICE CANNOT:

- Enter your home without judicial warrant (signed by judge)
- Detain based on race or ethnicity alone
- Search your car, home, or phone without warrant or consent
- Force you to sign documents
- Prevent you from calling a lawyer or consulate
- Force you to answer questions (you have right to silence)

🗨️ WHAT TO SAY (AND NOT SAY)

MEMORIZE THIS IF STOPPED:

If questioned:

"I am exercising my right to remain silent. I want to speak with a lawyer."

Then **STOP TALKING**. Repeat if needed.

If asked to enter car/home:

"I do not consent to a search of my home/car/person."

If they enter anyway:

"I do not consent to this search or to this entry."

(Say this even if they enter—it protects your legal rights)

If asked for papers:

"I would like to speak with a lawyer before answering questions or providing documents."

What NOT to say:

- ❌ Do NOT lie about your name
- ❌ Do NOT sign anything
- ❌ Do NOT answer questions about where you were born
- ❌ Do NOT answer questions about immigration status
- ❌ Do NOT physically resist

SPECIFIC STEPS: IF ICE COMES TO YOUR HOME

1. Do not open the door. Talk through the door or window only.
2. Ask: "Do you have a judicial warrant signed by a judge?"
 - Judicial warrant = signed by judge (U.S. District Court, Superior Court)
 - Administrative warrant = NOT a judicial warrant (don't accept this)
3. If they say "no" to judicial warrant:
 - Say: "I do not consent to entry. You cannot enter my home."
 - Close door firmly
 - Call lawyer immediately
4. If they have a real judicial warrant:
 - Do NOT physically resist
 - Stay calm
 - Say: "I do not consent to this search" (even as they search)
 - Do NOT sign anything
 - Get badge numbers, badge serial numbers, and names
 - Remember what they look through
 - Call lawyer immediately
5. DO NOT ANSWER QUESTIONS AT ANY POINT
 - Just say: "I want to speak with a lawyer"
 - Keep repeating this
 - Do not volunteer information

HOW NEIGHBORS CAN HELP

During ICE Action:

- Document: Video/photo everything (from safe distance)
 - Witness: Be present to see what happens
 - Record: Note badge numbers, names, times
 - Connect: Help person call lawyer
 - Support: Stay with family members left behind
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After ICE Action:

- Legal Help: Get detained person an attorney
 - Support: Visit detention facility
 - Money: Help family with commissary funds
 - Care: Help with children, pets, bills, rent
 - Report: File complaints with DHS
 - Organize: Share information in community
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Before ICE Action (Prevention):

- Distribute: Print this guide and share widely
- Know Rights: Host community training sessions
- Know Contacts: Post legal aid numbers everywhere
- Network: Build neighborhood communication system
- Plan: Know where legal help is
- Record: Discuss how to safely document encounters



FILE A COMPLAINT IF RIGHTS VIOLATED

If ICE violated someone's rights (unlawful detention, excessive force, discrimination, etc.):

DHS Office for Civil Rights & Civil Liberties (CRCL)

For civil rights violations

- Phone: 1-866-644-8360 or TTY: 1-866-644-8361
 - Email: CRCLCompliance@hq.dhs.gov
 - Mail:
DHS Office for Civil Rights & Civil Liberties
Compliance Branch
245 Murray Lane, SW, Bldg 410, MS #0190
Washington, DC 20528-0190
 - Online form: dhs.gov/crcl (file complaint online)
 - Deadline: Generally within 180 days of incident
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DHS Office of Inspector General (OIG)

For criminal misconduct, corruption, abuse

- Phone: 1-800-323-8830
 - Email: hotline@oig.dhs.gov
 - Website: oig.dhs.gov/hotline
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ICE Office of Professional Responsibility

For employee/contractor misconduct

- Online: ice.gov/investigations
- Mail: ICE OPR Joint Intake Center

SUING FOR WRONGFUL DETENTION

If someone was wrongfully detained by ICE (detained without legal basis):

Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) Lawsuit

- Sue U.S. government for false imprisonment
 - Possible compensation: ~\$1,000 per hour detained
 - Example: 7-day wrongful detention = \$125,000 settlement
 - Talk to immigration attorney about this option
 - Deadline: Usually 2 years from incident
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Habeas Corpus Petition

- File in federal court to challenge detention legality
- Can result in bond hearing and release
- Free forms available online
- Can file without attorney (pro se)

IMPORTANT WEBSITES

- ICE Detainee Locator: ice.gov/locate
- Know Your Rights (ACLU): aclu.org/immigrants-rights
- NILC (Legal Resources): nilc.org
- Immigration Law Help Directory: immigrationlawhelp.org
- Freedom for Immigrants: freedomforimmigrants.org
- CRIS Ohio: crisohio.org
- Legal Aid Ohio: legalaidthio.org

APPS & TOOLS

- Stop & Frisk Rights App - Know your rights in your pocket
- Notarights.app - Know your rights in multiple languages
- ¡Sé Valiente! Be Brave! - RAICES app - Rights and resources
- Community Cat - Rapid Response Organizing Tool

FOR DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

Spanish/Español:

- CRIS Ohio: 614-235-5747 (ask for Spanish speaker)
- LASCO: 614-221-7201 (ask for Spanish speaker)
- Many resources available in Spanish online

Other Languages:

- Contact CRIS Ohio - they have interpreters
- Most legal aid organizations have interpreters available
- Call ahead and request your language

KEY RIGHTS TO REMEMBER

 You have the right to:

- Remain silent
- Refuse to sign documents
- Refuse to answer questions
- Demand a lawyer
- Contact your consulate
- Have a bond hearing
- Challenge unlawful detention

 ICE cannot:

- Enter your home without a judge's warrant
- Detain you based on race/ethnicity
- Force you to talk
- Prevent you from seeing a lawyer
- Search you without reason or warrant
- Arrest you without probable cause

FOR LEGALLY PRESENT IMMIGRANTS (Green Card, Visa Holders)

IMPORTANT: You have the SAME constitutional rights as U.S. citizens.

- You can refuse entry without judicial warrant
- You can remain silent
- You can demand a lawyer
- You have Fourth Amendment protections
- You have the right to a bond hearing

Special Note on Green Cards:

- Always carry your green card
- ICE cannot deport you without immigration court hearing
- You have right to present your case to immigration judge

Know your criminal record matters:

- Certain crimes can affect your immigration status
- Consult immigration attorney if you have any criminal history
- Don't answer questions without lawyer present



COMMUNITY RESOURCES IN COLUMBUS

Legal Aid:

- LASCO: 614-221-7201
- CRIS: 614-235-5747
- OSU Moritz Immigration Clinic: (614) 292-7176

Rapid Response Networks:

- Ask CRIS or LASCO if community rapid response exists
- Help organize one in your neighborhood
- Share this guide with everyone

Community Organizing:

- Catholic Charities: Multiple Ohio locations
- Local churches, temples, mosques often help
- School districts have resources
- Food banks often assist families

PRINT THIS GUIDE

This guide is FREE to:

- Print in bulk for community
- Translate to other languages
- Distribute at churches, schools, community centers
- Post on bulletin boards
- Give to neighbors
- Share on social media

Share the website or print version everywhere.

DISCLAIMER

This is general information about immigration rights and legal procedures. It is NOT legal advice. For specific legal advice about your situation, consult with a licensed immigration attorney. All numbers and information current as of January 2026.

SPREAD THE WORD

The more people who know their rights, the safer everyone is.

Print this. Share this. Save lives.

Questions? Contact local legal aid:

- CRIS: 614-235-5747
- LASCO: 614-221-7201
- Moritz Clinic: (614) 292-7176

In emergency: Call 911 or get to nearest police station