



REVERE SENTINEL ACTION TOOLKIT

How to Be the Eyes & Ears of Your Community

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The most powerful tool citizens have is consistent, credible, contemporaneous documentation shared through legal, journalistic, and advocacy channels. We must bear witness and testify. Individual observations become evidence of patterns — and patterns drive accountability.

Use this practical guide to conduct community observation and documentation of federal law enforcement activity.

This guidance is to promote effective, nonviolent observation and community safety. Observing and documenting government activity in public spaces is protected by the First Amendment. This information should never be used to harass, threaten, or doxx individuals. We are committed to nonviolent action and protection of civil liberties for all.

YOUR LEGAL FOUNDATION: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

✓ YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO	✗ YOU DO NOT HAVE TO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Observe and film law enforcement in public spaces where you have a legal right to be ✓ Ask people if they want legal help or want you to call someone ✓ Write down what you witness ✓ Share information with legal observers, journalists, and advocacy organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Identify yourself in most states (unless you're being detained or driving) ✗ Stop filming if you're not obstructing ✗ Hand over your phone without a warrant

OBSERVATION TACTICS: SAFETY FIRST

Before Going Out

- Know your local stop & identify laws — they vary by state.
 - New Jersey does not have a specific "stop and identify" law requiring individuals to provide identification upon being stopped. Police may ask, but individuals are not legally obligated to comply unless being arrested.*
- Save the number of a local attorney or the ACLU on your phone.
- Download the ACLU Mobile Justice app (available in most states), which automatically uploads video to the ACLU.
- Wear plain clothes; bring a notepad or use your phone's notes app.
- Back up your phone and have a plan for data recovery *in case you lose your device.*

At the Scene

- Stay at a safe, legal distance — do not interfere or obstruct.
- Film continuously — capture badge numbers, vehicle plates, agency markings, uniforms.



- Note the time, location, and number of agents — be specific (e.g., "3 plainclothes individuals, unmarked black SUV, TX plate XYZ-123, 9:14am").
- Document who is stopped — apparent age, ethnicity, what agents say to them.
- Note whether Miranda rights or right-to-remain-silent was communicated.
- If someone is being detained: calmly ask agents, "Is this person free to go?"
- If someone appears to be a bystander or uninvolved, note whether they were questioned.

What to Capture on Video

- Agent credentials/badges (zoom in)
- Whether a signed judicial warrant is shown
- Whether the person appears to consent or resist
- Any use of force, weapons drawn, or implied threat of force
- Witness names and contact info (with their consent)

USE THE SALUTE METHOD

Use the SALUTE method to report accurate, actionable information that helps protect communities and guide response efforts. This standardized format ensures clarity and reduces fear from unverified claims.

S — Size	Note the number of individuals, vehicles, or assets observed (e.g., 5 agents, 2 vans).
A — Activity	Describe what they are doing — e.g., conducting a raid, questioning individuals, using force, or searching a building.
L — Location	Provide a precise address, intersection, or landmark (e.g., "123 Main St, near the gas station"). Include boroughs in NYC or specific street names.
U — Unit	Identify the group or affiliation — e.g., ICE, CBP, HSI, or DHS. Note visible patches, insignias, or vehicle markings (e.g., "ICE ERO," "DHS," "CBP Field Operations").
T — Time	Record the exact date and time of the observation (e.g., "June 7, 2025, at 10:15 AM").
E — Equipment	List tools or weapons observed — e.g., flexicuffs, dogs, batons, sound cannons (LRAD), door breachers, or armored vehicles.

Use this method when reporting to local organizations' rapid response networks.

Do not post unverified reports on social media — this can spread panic. If you document the event, record video horizontally, capture officer details (faces, badges, license plates), and only intervene if safe. Always remain calm, know your rights, and avoid signing anything or discussing your immigration status.

DOCUMENTATION BEST PRACTICES: BACK IT UP AND WRITE IT DOWN

- Back up footage immediately to cloud storage before any potential device seizure.
- Write a contemporaneous written account as soon as possible — memory degrades fast.
- Use the 5 W's: Who, What, Where, When, and What was said — verbatim as much as possible.
- Note whether agents identified their agency (ICE, CBP, FBI, etc.) and showed credentials.
- Document any absence of a warrant — agents are required to have a judicial warrant to enter any premises.

▶ Key Red Flags to Document

- ▶ Agents refusing to identify their agency.
- ▶ Stops with no apparent probable cause (e.g., someone simply walking or shopping).
- ▶ Agents questioning or detaining U.S. citizens or people who clearly have documentation.
- ▶ Threats or intimidation of observers or bystanders.
- ▶ Stops that appear to target people based on appearance in non-border areas.

COORDINATING WITH OTHERS

Legal Observer Networks

Organizations like the National Lawyers Guild deploy trained legal observers (often in green hats) — connect with your local chapter.

Rapid Response Networks

Many cities have immigrant rights rapid response hotlines — join or share the number. United We Dream's hotline: 1-844-363-1423.

Document Sharing

Submit footage to local immigrant advocacy organizations, the ACLU, or trusted journalists with editorial protections.

Know Your Local Journalists

Build relationships with reporters covering immigration and civil liberties beats; they can verify and amplify documented patterns.

IF AGENTS APPROACH YOU



Calmly state: "I am a legal observer / I am a community member and I have a constitutionally protected legal right to be here."

- Do not physically intervene or block agents.
- If told to move, ask: "Am I being detained, or am I free to go?"
- If detained: stay calm, don't answer questions, ask for a lawyer immediately.
- You do not have to unlock your phone — the 5th Amendment and many court rulings protect this.

PATTERN DOCUMENTATION (LONG-TERM)

Individual incidents matter more when part of a larger documented pattern. Consider:

- Logging incidents in a shared community spreadsheet (date, location, agency, description).
- Mapping enforcement hotspots over time.
- Tracking whether stops correlate with political events, protests, or vocal community members.
- Reporting patterns to oversight bodies: Congress members' offices, Inspectors General, and civil rights divisions of the DOJ.

Individual observations become evidence of patterns — and patterns drive accountability.

KEY ORGANIZATIONS & RESOURCES

ACLU Mobile Justice App	Auto-uploads video to the ACLU. Available in most states.
National Lawyers Guild	Legal observer training & support. Connect with your local chapter.
United We Dream Hotline 1-844-363-1423	Rapid response to immigration enforcement activity in your community.
Immigrant Legal Resource Center ilrc.org	Know-your-rights materials and legal resources for immigrants and advocates.
Human Rights Watch / Amnesty International	Systemic documentation guidance and support for community-level human rights monitoring.

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