

Family Preparedness Plan

Every family should have a Family Preparedness Plan. While it is our hope that you never have to use your plan, it is a good practice to have one in place to help reduce the stress of the unexpected. This packet will help everyone create a Family Preparedness Plan, regardless of immigration status. However, because of the additional challenges immigrant and mixed status families face, we also have additional advice for immigrants.

Know Your Rights: Everyone – both documented and undocumented persons – have rights in this country. Make sure you, your family members (even children), housemates, neighbors, and co-workers, regardless of their immigration status, know of their right to remain silent and all of their other rights if ICE or the police come to your home, neighborhood or workplace. A list of these rights, and a card asserting these rights, are included in this packet.

Find Out About Your Immigration Options: Find a local, nonprofit legal services organization that can help you find out if there is an immigration option for you to get a green card, work permit or visa, or protect you from deportation. Also, keep a list of these local organizations in case you ever have a problem with ICE. These organizations have attorneys who may be able to help you.

- If you have a green card, find out if you can become a U.S. citizen.
- If you are here on a visa, find out if you can get a green card.
- If you do not have immigration status, find out if you may be eligible to get a green card, visa or work permit.
- If you have a criminal arrest or conviction, find out how it might affect your situation, or if there is a way to erase it from your record.
- If you are detained or put into deportation proceedings, ask for a hearing in front of a judge to get out of detention and to fight your deportation.

Inform Your Family and Emergency Contacts About How to Find You if You Are Detained by ICE

- Family members can use the ICE detainee locator: locator.ice.gov/odls/homePage.do. Be sure your family and emergency contacts have a copy of your A-Number (your alien registration number found on your immigration documents from ICE) if you have one.

Make a Child Care Plan

- Have a plan so that a trusted adult can care for your child if you cannot. This plan should include emergency numbers, a list of important contact information, a Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit and a file with important documents. This packet includes templates to put together these documents.

Maintain A File of Important Documents: *Keep a file of all of these documents or a copy of these documents in a safe place. Tell your children, family members and emergency caregiver where to find this file in an emergency.*

- Passports
- Birth Certificates
- Marriage License (if applicable)
- Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit
- Any Restraining Orders you may have against anyone (if applicable)
- A-Number and any immigration documents (work permit, green card, visa, etc.)
- Driver's License and/or Other Identification Cards
- Social Security Card or ITIN number
- Registry of birth (for U.S. born children registered in parent's home country)(if applicable)
- Important Children's Information
- Emergency Numbers and Important Contact Information
- Children(s)' Medical Information, including health insurance, medication list, and doctor's contact information
- Any other documents you would want to be able to quickly find

Know Your Rights

**Remain calm and do not try to run away.
If you do, ICE or the police may use that against you.**

Everyone – both documented and undocumented persons – has rights in this country. Talk to everyone in your family (including children) and household to make sure they all know what to do if approached by immigration officials (ICE) or if immigration officials (ICE) come to your house.

ICE at Your Door: Do not open the door for ICE or any police officer without a signed warrant. You do not need to open the door unless an ICE agent can show you a warrant signed by a judge with your specific and correct name and address on it. If ICE knocks on your door, ask them to slide the search warrant under the door or through a window. Make sure the warrant is signed by a judge and has your address on it. If ICE or the police do not have this, then you do not have to open the door. Once you open the door, you lose certain rights.

Keep a Know Your Rights red card on you and by your door at all times: You can slide it under the door to ICE – it explains your rights and that you do not have to open the door. Have your children and other family members practice sliding it under the door.

Talking to ICE: You do not have to talk to ICE or answer their questions. **You have the right to remain silent.** You can refuse to speak to an ICE agent. Do not answer any questions, especially about your birth place, immigration status or how you entered the United States. Do not give them any personal information about yourself or anyone in your family. Say that you want to remain silent until you speak with a lawyer. Have your children and others in your family practice saying “No” to ICE.

You have the right to refuse to sign anything before you talk to a lawyer. Do not sign anything you do not understand and agree with. That could eliminate your right to speak with a lawyer or have a hearing in front of an immigration judge. This may result in you being deported immediately without a hearing.

Ask to speak with your lawyer and to go before the immigration judge. **You have the right to speak to a lawyer and the right to make a phone call.** Make sure to carry the phone number for an immigration lawyer with you at all times.

Documents You Should and Should Not Carry With You

- At all times, carry a valid work permit or green card, if you have one. If you do not have one, generally it is advisable to carry a municipal ID, state ID or driver’s license if it was issued in the United States and contains no information at all about your immigration status or your country of origin. Ask a local immigration advocate about what kind of documents are safe to carry in your area.
- At all times, carry a red card to exercise your right to remain silent in case you are stopped or interrogated by ICE or police officers.
- At all times, carry the telephone number of an immigration lawyer, advocate or nonprofit immigration legal services provider you will call in an emergency.
- Do not carry any documentation about your country of origin.
- Do not carry any false identity documents or false immigration documents.