

AT RISK

OF

ICE

DETENTION?

MAKE A PLAN
and BE PREPARED

January 2026

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ICE agents move fast to take advantage of people's fear and confusion, ignoring the law and people's rights. If you are at risk of being detained by ICE, it's important for your loved ones to know what to do if ICE takes you into custody. This guide will answer these questions:

- What can I do to reduce my risk of an ICE arrest?
- How can my loved ones and I prepare, right now, for an ICE arrest?
- What happens after an ICE arrest?
- Where can I get more support?

This guide was created by the Immigrant Solidarity subgroup of the Providence General Assembly. We are concerned community members, not legal professionals.

The information here is NOT legal advice. Only seek legal advice from qualified, credentialed legal counsel.

The information collected here is current at time of printing.

WHAT CAN I DO TO REDUCE MY RISK OF AN ICE ARREST?

The most important thing is to Know Your Rights. Regardless of your immigration status, you have guaranteed rights under the Constitution.

This guide is primarily focused on steps you can take to prepare, in case you or a family member is detained, and what to expect after someone is detained. There are lots of really great guides that other organizations have published that thoroughly go over Know Your Rights info, but we want to share some useful information here:

- Follow the RI Defense Line Whatsapp channel (Alerta de Migra / ICE Watch RI) for verified ICE alerts, run by local community members: tinyurl.com/ICEwatchRI
- Call the RI Defense Line if you suspect ICE is nearby:
401-675-1414

VIRTUAL APPOINTMENTS

ICE has sometimes been waiting outside the courthouses and arresting people after their immigration check-in appointments. Some people are eligible to change their immigration appointments to virtual. **USC Agents of Change** is an organization helping people change their immigration appointments to a virtual/online format. Call them here: **888-462-5211**

WHAT TO DO IF ICE ATTEMPTS TO INVADE MY HOME?

ICE agents can only legally enter if they have a **judicial warrant: a court order signed by a judge or magistrate**. They may present an administrative document — also known as an “ICE warrant” — which does not give ICE agents the legal authority to enter private residences without consent.

Judicial warrants and administrative documents/”ICE warrants” look different:

This is a judicial search warrant. It DOES authorize agents to enter your home.

AD-10 (Rev. 12/09) Search and Seizure Warrant

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT - Issued by a COURT.

For the Eastern District of California

In the Matter of the Search of (Briefly describe the premises to be searched or seized) (the person, by whom, and category) Case No. _____

543 Oak Avenue, Davis, California 95616

SEARCH AND SEIZURE WARRANT

To: Any authorized law enforcement officer **2:11-SW-0161 EFB**

An application by a federal law enforcement officer or an attorney for the government requests the search of the following person or property located in the EASTON District of CALIFORNIA.

SEE ATTACHMENT ATTACHED HERETO AND INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Read attachments to make sure they are regarding YOU and YOUR address, not someone else's.

The person or property to be searched, described above, is believed to conceal (describe the person or describe the property to be searched) **SEE ATTACHMENT ATTACHED HERETO AND INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

I find that the affiant(s), or any recited testimony, establish probable cause to search and seize the person or property **DATE THE WARRANT WAS ISSUED**

YOU ARE COMMANDED TO execute this warrant on or before 5-9-2011 **to exceed 14 days**

in the daytime: 6:00 a.m. to 10 p.m. at any time in the day or night so I find reasonable cause has been established.

Unless delayed notice is authorized below, you must give a copy of the warrant and a receipt for the property taken to the person from whom, or from whose premises, the property was taken, or leave the copy and receipt at the place where the property was taken.

The officer executing this warrant, or an officer present during the execution of the warrant, must prepare an inventory as required by law and promptly return this warrant and inventory to United States Magistrate Judge _____

I find that immediate notification may have an adverse result listed in 18 U.S.C. § 2709 (except for delay of trial), and authorize the officer executing this warrant to deliver notice to the person who, or whose property, will be searched or seized (insert the appropriate box) **DATE, TIME AND PLACE**

On this, the facts justifying the later specific date of _____ **Signed by a JUDGE.**

Date and time issued: 4-27-2011
at 10:00 AM

City and state: **SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA** **EDMUND F. BRENNAN, U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE**
Printed name and title

This is issued by DHS, NOT a court.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY Warrant for Arrest of Alien

File No. _____
Date: _____

To: Any Immigration officer authorized pursuant to sections 236 and 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act and part 287 of Title 8, Code of Federal Regulations, to serve warrants of arrest for immigration violations

I have determined that there is probable cause to believe that _____ is removable from the United States. This determination is based upon:

- the execution of a charging document to initiate removal proceedings against the subject;
- the pendency of ongoing removal proceedings against the subject;
- the failure to establish admissibility subsequent to determination of inadmissibility;
- historic confirmation of the subject's identity and a records check of federal databases that affirmatively indicate, to the best of the officer's knowledge, no other reliable information that the subject either lacks immigration status or notwithstanding such status is removable under U.S. immigration law;
- statements made voluntarily by the subject to the Immigration officer and to other reliable witnesses that affirmatively indicate, to the best of the officer's knowledge, no other reliable evidence that affirmatively indicate, to the best of the officer's knowledge, no other reliable information that the subject either lacks immigration status or notwithstanding such status is removable under U.S. immigration law.

YOU ARE COMMANDED TO appear in court and stand ready for removal proceedings under the Immigration and Nationality Act by above-stated date.

Signed by an immigration officer, NOT a judge

Signature of Authorizing Immigration Officer _____
(Printed Name and Title of Authorizing Immigration Officer)

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that the Warrant for Arrest of Alien was served by me at _____ (Location), _____ (Name of Alien) on _____ (Date of Service), and the contents of this notice were read to him or her in the _____ (Language) language.

Name and Signature of Officer _____ Name or Number of Interpreter (if applicable)

This is an administrative warrant. It does NOT authorize immigration agents to enter your home. Form I-801 (Rev. 06/11)

A judicial warrant (left) grants legal entry to your home. An administrative warrant (right) does not.

However, during many recent arrests, ICE agents have ignored these legal requirements entirely. If they force their way in, or if they seize you at work or school or on the street:

You have the right to remain silent during an ICE arrest. Do not answer questions or sign anything without speaking with a lawyer.

WHAT HELP CAN BYSTANDERS AND WITNESSES PROVIDE?

Recording video and audio of an arrest can provide evidence that may help the person who's been detained when their case comes to court. It can also be useful in gaining public support. Although it is stressful and frightening, bystanders or witnesses have the right to record.

In Rhode Island, **it is legal to record video and audio of law enforcement, such as city and state police, and federal agents, such as ICE, during arrests and other activities as long as doing so does not interfere with those activities.** For example, filming a federal arrest on a phone in public is generally legal, but getting too physically close to the arresting agents could be considered obstruction and expose the person recording to felony charges.

Recording law enforcement operations in public is generally protected under the First Amendment, but these protections may not apply in certain places, such as in federal facilities or on state property, as well as locations such as hospitals, schools, and other private property.

Know Your Rights Resources

<https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/immigrants-rights>

<https://www.wehaverights.us>



Know Your Rights



We Have Rights

HOW CAN MY LOVED ONES AND I PREPARE, RIGHT NOW, FOR AN ICE ARREST?

IDENTIFY A POINT PERSON AND AGREE ON RESPONSIBILITIES.

If you are at risk of ICE detention, identify a point person – a friend, family member, loved one, or trusted community member – who can and will interact with authorities and legal counsel on your behalf. If you are taken into federal custody, this person can start the process of finding you and advocating for you right away, rather than making decisions and plans under stress.

Here's what this person will need to know and what you'll need to decide together.

- Your A-number, if you have one; your country of birth; your date of birth; your current address; and your current phone number.
- Your medications and other medical needs.
- Who will be responsible for childcare, in the event that you are detained, possibly including Legal Parental Authorization.
- The name and number of your lawyer, if you have one, or steps for acquiring a lawyer, legal referral service, or accredited representative. How you will pay for legal support.
- Who currently has or shares access to your finances, and whether you want to change that. How public you want your case to be (for social media, fundraising, etc.)

MAKE SURE YOUR POINT PERSON KNOWS YOUR A-NUMBER (IF YOU HAVE ONE) AND YOUR COUNTRY OF BIRTH.

The most effective way to locate an individual in ICE custody is using ICE's Online Detainee Locator System (ODLS). The ODLS can be found at <https://locator.ice.gov/odls> and is available in many languages.

Knowing your date of birth, current address, and current phone number is also helpful and may be required information in dealing with the detention center and for posting bond.

MAKE SURE YOUR POINT PERSON KNOWS YOUR MEDICAL NEEDS.

Because ICE and other federal agencies are notorious for ignoring or denying medical care for detainees in their custody, **your point person should be aware of and able to advocate for any medical needs you may have.**

This includes:

- Prescription medications, including dosages and schedules
- Chronic medical conditions that may place you at risk while in detention
- Allergies to foods, medications, or other things
- The nature and severity of the risks if these needs aren't met

ENSURE CHILDCARE ARRANGEMENTS ARE IN PLACE.

If there are children you care for as a parent, family member or guardian, you want to ensure that they will be cared for if ICE arrests you. You can set up a trusted family member, friend, neighbor or community member to provide that care. **Ideally, this will be a different person from your point person, but your point person should know them and be in communication with them.** You might also want to choose several people so that no one has more than they can handle. In that case, your point person would help to coordinate these people.

Some things that the childcare person or people will do:

- Make sure that children are fed, clean and safe.
- School drop-offs and pickups.
- Bring children to and from after-school activities.
- Bring children to and from scheduled appointments (medical or dental appointments, custody visits).
- Watch children if their primary adult has to take on more paid work.
- Stay safe, calm and kind when children are feeling bad.

Several members of our community have been targeted by ICE while dropping off or picking up their children from school. To be prepared, make sure you provide school administrators with the name(s) and contact information of trusted people and caregivers authorized to pick up your children from school. (Schools may have different guidelines; check with your school administrators about what information they require.)

Legal Parental Authorization, or an Appointment of Guardian form, gives legal permission to the people on the form to make decisions relating to a child's healthcare and education if you cannot be reached. **This form is a legal document that must be signed in the presence of a notary public and submitted with the Rhode Island Department of Human Services (RIDHS)** An example of this form can be found here: https://centerforjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Fillable-FP_corrected.pdf

If you're considering giving Legal Parental Authorization/Appointment of Guardian to someone who doesn't yet have it, talk with your lawyer if you have one, or with a representative of RIDHS online (<https://dhs.ri.gov/>), in person, or on the phone: 1-855-697-4347

WHERE CAN MY FAMILY AND I GET MORE SUPPORT IN MAKING THESE PLANS?

The Rhode Island Center for Justice may be able to offer free or low-cost legal guidance on family preparedness planning. An overview on family preparedness planning from the Rhode Island Center for Justice can be accessed here: <https://centerforjustice.org/fpp/>. The Center for Justice can be contacted at: (401) 491-1101, <https://centerforjustice.org/>

The City of Central Falls is also offering assistance for families putting together a Family Preparedness plan. You can contact Sarah Friedman at 401-454-9109, sfriedman@city.centralfallsri

TAKE STEPS TO MAINTAIN CONTINUITY OF FINANCES AND COVER ADDITIONAL COSTS.

If you contribute to your family's income or manage the household finances, and then you can't work because you've been detained, your family will need other ways to access the money you do have, and seek additional financial support, so that they can pay bills, buy food, and stay in their home.

- If you have a bank account: Some banks permit account holders to add family members to their account and offer debit cards. Check with your bank to see if you can do this.
- If you have a credit card or cards: Similarly, some credit card companies allow the primary cardholders to issue additional cards to "secondary" or "authorized users." You'll need to call the card provider to see if this is possible.
- Consider opening a joint bank account with your spouse or partner. Many banks permit unmarried couples to open joint accounts.
- If you don't have a bank account or credit card: Put aside some cash for your family's essentials, such as food and medication, if you are detained.

Your point person may also want to coordinate with a community advocacy organization, or with the public, to raise funds for your family's living expenses, or for legal fees and necessities for you while you are detained.

It's possible to transfer funds to someone in ICE detention for food, over-the-counter medications, and hygiene products, but the companies that handle the transfers often charge high transaction fees.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER AN ICE ARREST?

When someone is arrested and detained by ICE, the first step is for the detainee to be processed. This usually takes place at the field office with jurisdiction over the area in which the arrest was made. During processing, ICE will probably:

- Take the detainee's fingerprints
- Photograph the detainee
- Collect basic biographical information, such as the detainee's birth date and country of birth

ICE agents may also lie to you during this process, telling you that if you don't sign a document waiving your rights, it will harm your case. **This is not true. Detainees have the right to remain silent and can refuse to sign any documents while in ICE custody.** Signing documents before consulting with an attorney can lead to deportation without a legal hearing in immigration court, and may have permanent consequences on your ability to remain in or return to the United States.

Detainees in ICE custody also have the right to legal representation by a qualified attorney, but ICE has no legal obligation to provide or appoint an attorney on detainees' behalf.

MEMORIZE your lawyer's and point person's telephone numbers.

LOCATING SOMEONE DETAINED BY ICE.

ICE recommends using the detainee's A-Number (Alien Number) and country of birth to search for them in the ODLS, so your point person will need both. <https://locator.ice.gov/odls>

If you do not have an A-Number, your point person can search ODLS by first and last name exactly as they're displayed on official documentation, and your country of birth. It may take 48 hours or longer for you to be listed after you're arrested, so your point person should search regularly until they find you.

Searching for detainees in ODLS by name and country of birth may be unreliable, as ICE may have recorded them inaccurately. **Ensure your designated point person knows exactly how your name is displayed on official documentation.**

ODLS cannot be used to locate detainees under the age of 18.

If your point person does not have internet access, or they cannot locate you in ODLS, they should contact the local ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) field office to find out where you are. The ERO field office with jurisdiction over the state of Rhode Island is located at:

443 Jefferson Boulevard, North Suite

Warwick, RI, 02886

(401) 773-4800

This toolkit provides more in depth information about how to locate someone that was detained by ICE: <https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/toolkit-lost-in-detention>

Once a detainee has been arrested and processed, they may be detained anywhere in the United States. It is becoming common for people arrested in New England to be sent to detention facilities in the South, including Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

If you know someone that is being detained in one of these states, the following organizations may be able to support you and your loved one:

Resource list of helpful organizations located in Louisiana and Mississippi:

- English: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FV0N305mnMVO-p4akn4Nr-0ByoufODIj6/view>
- Portuguese: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bdL9SpSKvKB-PI0RSAuifLHb7O1V06y3o/view>
- Spanish: https://drive.google.com/file/d/14A8kn_5yWwP7O-ICW4PBff_Q7L7YCgW0w/view



English



Portuguese



Spanish

FIND A LAWYER ASAP.

If you already have a lawyer, your point person should have their contact information in their phone, so they can contact them during or immediately after your arrest. This is urgent: the sooner a lawyer gets involved, the better chance you have of retaining your rights and recovering your safety.

If you don't already have a lawyer at the time of your arrest, here are some ways for your point person to find one:

Alliance to Mobilize Our Resistance (AMOR) has case management services and can help people find lawyers: 401-675-1414

The Rhode Island Bar Association (RIBA) operates a Lawyer Referral Service, which can help connect individuals seeking legal representation with qualified attorneys. RIBA will collect some personal information in order to connect your point person with the right lawyer for your case. This information remains confidential. <https://ribar.com/?pg=ClientReferrals> | (401) 421-5740. To ask about reduced service fees: (401) 421-7799

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Rhode Island Chapter may be able to help your point person secure appropriate legal representation. They may also be able to publicize your case if you decide you want to do that. The RI ACLU can be reached at: (401) 831-7171, info@riaclu.org

Roger Williams University School of Law Immigration Clinic: <https://law.rwu.edu/academics/juris-doctor/clinics-and-externships/immigration-clinic> | law@rwu.edu | (401) 254-4500

POSTING BOND.

Until recently, immigration judges have had the discretion to determine whether a person held in detention is eligible to be released on bond. Bond is a deposit paid to the court that can be refunded when your case is closed. It is meant to ensure that you will comply with court dates and rulings, in exchange for being released from detention. Until recently, bond eligibility was primarily decided based on whether a person was a danger to their community or at risk of non-compliance. It was frequently granted.

In 2025, the Trump administration made changes that make bonds much more restrictive and broaden the reasons someone would be ineligible. These changes are being challenged in lawsuits, and the situation is evolving. **It is important to have a conversation with your lawyer about how these changes affect your possibility of getting bond.**

If your lawyer determines that you have a chance of getting bond, and you are granted a hearing, there are things your point person will need to provide:

- A sponsor letter: This serves as a guarantee to the U.S. immigration court that the sponsor will support you if you are released, and ensure that you attend all required immigration proceedings, including hearings and check-ins. This letter needs to be from a US Citizen or Permanent Resident and needs to be notarized.

- The same person will need to post (pay) your bond. The money does not technically need to come from this person, but they will be the one physically making the payment. Payment needs to be a certified bank check, made out to “U.S. Department of Homeland Security.”
- There is no place to pay bond in RI. Payment needs to be made at 1000 District Avenue, Burlington, MA, 01803. The office is open from 9:00am-3:00pm. Your sponsor should plan to arrive early and be ready to sit for several hours.
- When paying bond, your sponsor may need to provide the name and number of the person who will pick you up from detention. Your point person and sponsor should have that arranged ahead of time and have that information on hand.

This website provides more information on bond, hearings, and your rights in detention: <https://immigrantjustice.org/for-immigrants/know-your-rights/what-do-if-you-or-loved-one-detained/>

BE INTENTIONAL ABOUT PUBLIC VISIBILITY.

Decide with your point person, as well as other friends and family, whether and how you want them to make your case public if you are detained. Social and news media can be a powerful tool to raise awareness and funds and to build support. It can also draw the attention of ICE and other enforcement agencies, and of exploitative people. If possible, **your point person should talk with your lawyer about the pros and cons of making your detention public, and what information it is appropriate to share.**

If you/your point person/your lawyer decide to make your case public, it is helpful to:

- Work with local advocacy groups to share your story and make requests, such as donations or phone calls to the detention facility or to an elected official
- *Optional:* Choose someone who can safely speak with news media or is willing to take on the risk of doing so

Beware that anything you post or have posted on social media can be seen by enforcement agencies like ICE and DHS.

Telegram and WhatsApp also both share information about users and message activity with enforcement agencies, including ICE, upon request. The messaging app Signal is more secure for communicating with friends, family, and community members, especially when coordinating on behalf of individuals in ICE custody.

(<https://signal.org/>).

LOCAL COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS

Alliance to Mobilize Our Resistance (AMOR)

<https://amorri.org/>

info@amorri.org

AMOR Defense Line Against Deportation & Police Brutality: (401) 675-1414

Center for Southeast Asians (CSEA)

<https://cseari.org/>

info@cseari.org

(401) 274-8811

Dorcas International

<https://www.diiri.org>

info@diiri.org

(401) 784-8600

Fuerza Laboral

<https://www.fuerza-laboral.org/>

info@fuerza-laboral.org

(401) 725-2700

Hope and Change for Haiti (HCH)

<http://hopeandchange4haiti.com/>

contact@hncforhaiti.org

(401) 830-4060

New Bridges for Haitian Success

<https://www.nb4hs.org/>

info@nb4hs.org

(401) 408-2114

Olneyville Neighborhood Association (ONA)

<https://www.ona-providence.org/>

ona@ona-providence.org

(401) 228 8996

Progreso Latino

<https://www.progresolatino.org/>

(401) 728-5920

Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM)

Info@prysm.us<https://www.prysm.us/>

401-383-7450

Refugee Dream Center

<https://www.refugeedreamcenter.org>

info@refugeedreamcenter.org

(401) 300-0544

Women's Refugee Care

<https://www.womensrefugeecare.org/>

info@womensrefugeecare.org

(401) 563-8570

REGIONAL & NATIONAL COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS

National Immigration Project

<https://nipnlg.org/>

(617) 227-9727

Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network (BIJAN)

<https://www.beyondbondboston.org/>

617-396-7143

bijan.accompaniment@gmail.com

LUCE Immigrant Justice Network of Massachusetts

<https://www.lucemass.org/>

617-370-5023

luce_immigrantnetworkma@proton.me

Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition

<https://miracoalition.org/news/legal-services/>

<https://miracoalition.org/about-us/>
617-350-5480

Welcoming New Hampshire

<https://welcomingnh.org/>

The Providence General Assembly is an open, democratic movement space that meets regularly to strategize how to fight fascism and to build a better world. Our strength is our solidarity and the mutual aid we are able to extend to each other.

Our purpose is to:

- Defend peoples and communities under attack.
- Struggle to expand the power of workers, tenants, students, etc.
- Build lasting popular power that helps foster a truly free society.

providencegeneralassembly.org

email: provga@proton.me

instagram: [@providencegeneralassembly](https://www.instagram.com/providencegeneralassembly)

SOURCES

- <https://amorri.org/>
- <https://x.com/NILC/status/1149755946081538049>
- <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-5th-circuit-court-of-appeals-is-spearheading-a-judicial-power-grab/>
- <https://www.mass.gov/doc/ago-ice-guidance-05292025/download>
- <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/recognition-accreditation-roster-reports>
- <https://locator.ice.gov/odls>
- <https://www.ice.gov/node/62057>
- <https://www.nlg.org/chapters/#northeast>
- <https://ribar.com/>
- <https://ribar.com/?pg=ClientReferrals>
- <https://www.riaclu.org/en/about/contact-us>
- <https://dhs.ri.gov/about-us/dhs-offices>
- <https://www.nerdwallet.com/article/banking/joint-bank-account-unmarried-couple>
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- <https://apnews.com/article/social-media-immigration-applicants-handles-dhs-f67b480abebff7e451056be17572593d>
- <https://centerforjustice.org/fpp/>
- <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/immigrants-rights>
- <https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/toolkit-lost-in-detention>
- <https://immigrantjustice.org/for-immigrants/know-your-rights/what-do-if-you-or-loved-one-detained/>
- <https://www.wehaverights.us/>

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