

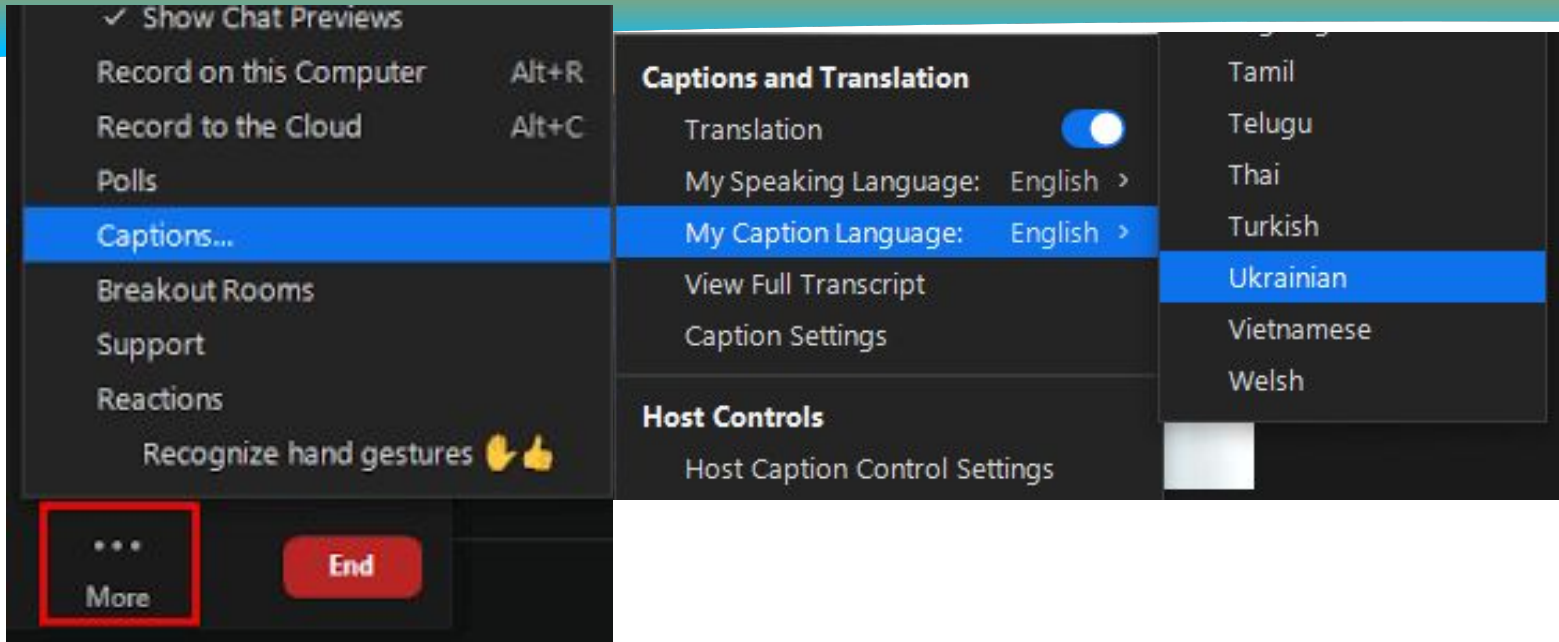
Know Your Rights for Healthcare Service Providers

April 6, 2026

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Liz Oropeza, Legal Advocate

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During English presentation: Access translated captions



- If you need a language other than English, auto-translated captions are available.
- To access, click “...more” button at the bottom of your zoom > *captions* > toggle on *translation* > then select which language you need.

*****Today's information is intended for educational purposes only*****

- The information provided today is only guaranteed to be updated through today (April 6, 2026)
- Please do not share personal/private patient information, only ask general questions
- We recommend obtaining legal advice:
 - to evaluate your individual situation
 - before filing any forms or motions with USCIS or the immigration court
 - before signing any immigration-related documents
 - before making any decisions about your stay in the country

Why This Matters

The presence of ICE agents in healthcare facilities can erode trust in healthcare systems, especially among immigrant populations

- Patients may avoid seeking care, leading to worsened health outcomes and further disparities
- By implementing clear protocols and maintaining a commitment to equitable care, healthcare providers can protect vulnerable patients while navigating this complex legal landscape



Agenda

- Introduction to NWIRP
- Current Events Impacting Healthcare Environments
- Know Your Rights
- Family Safety Planning
- Resources

About the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project

NWIRP promotes justice by defending and advancing the rights of immigrants through direct legal services, systemic advocacy, and community education

- All contact with NWIRP (and other legal services providers) is confidential
- All NWIRP services are free
- For more information about NWIRP visit our website:
www.nwirp.org

NWIRP Offices and Contact Information

NWIRP is a statewide legal services organization, with offices in:

- **Granger:** 509-854-2100 / 888-756-3641

grangerintake@nwirp.org

- **Seattle:** 206-587-4009 / 800-445-5771

seattlefrontdesk@nwirp.org

- **Tacoma:** 253-235-9279

TSUintake@nwirp.org

- Detained Individuals - 253-383-0519 / 877-814-6447

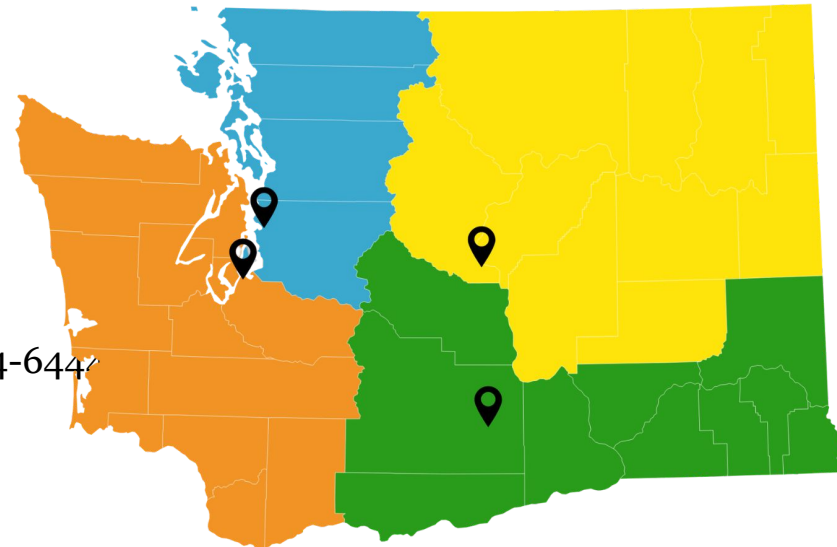
detainedreferrals@nwirp.org

- **Wenatchee:** 509-570-0054 / 866-271-2084

wenatcheeintake@nwirp.org

NWIRP Service Regions

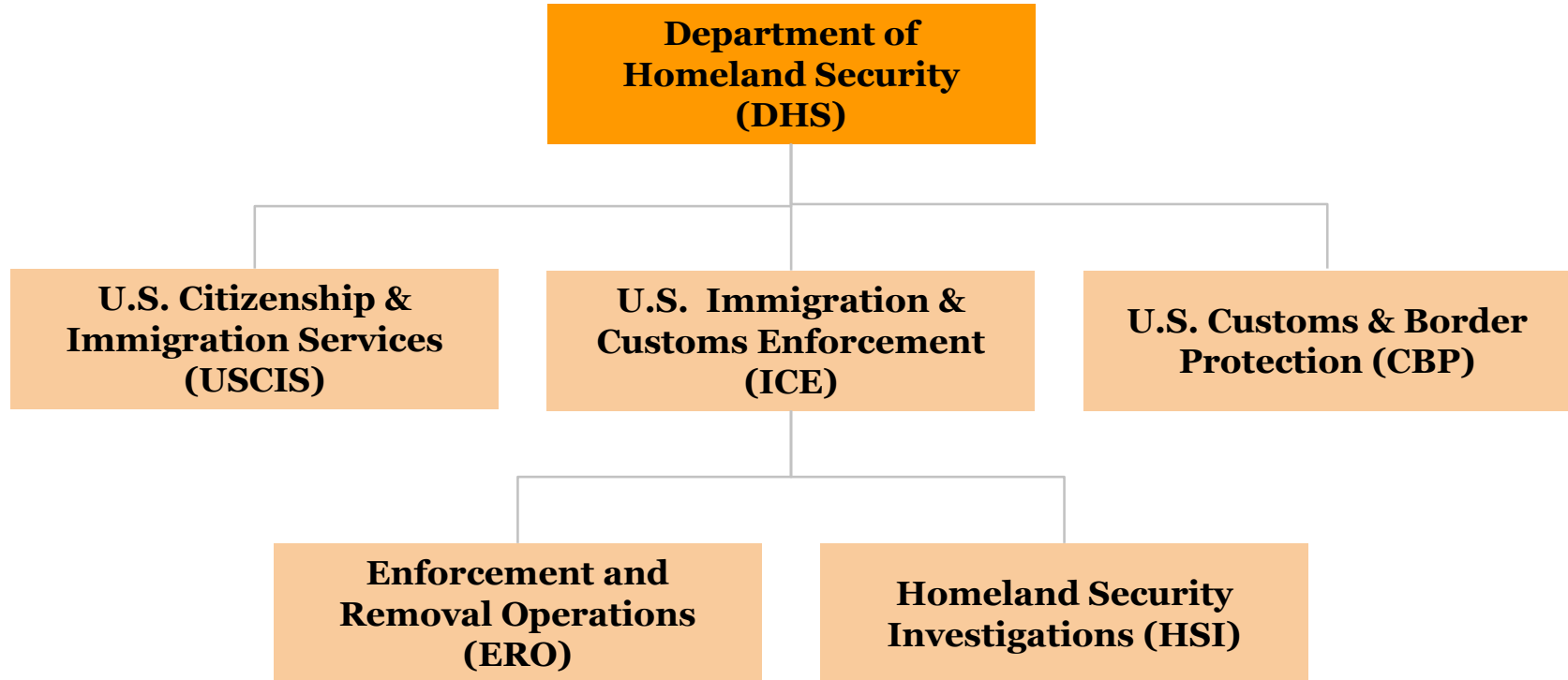
■ Granger ■ Seattle ■ Tacoma ■ Wenatchee



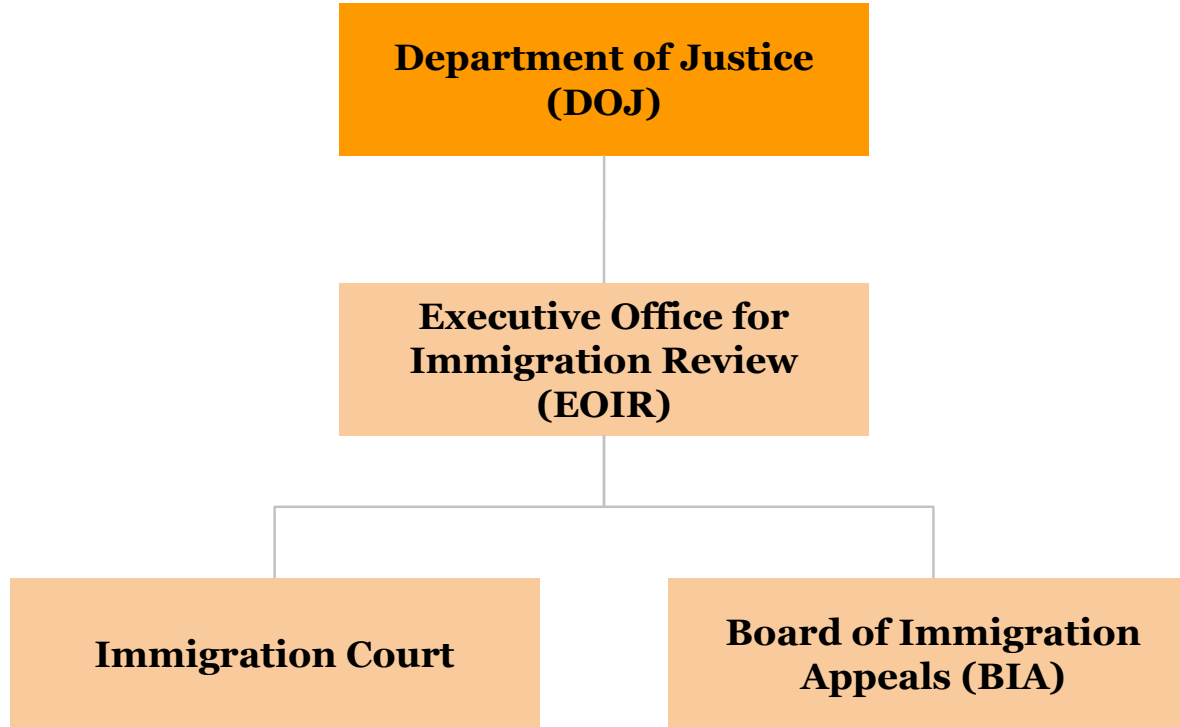
Current Events Impacting Healthcare Environments

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DHS Agencies Involved in Immigration Enforcement



DOJ Agencies Involved in Immigration Enforcement



Increased Detention and Deportation

Increased detention and deportation of community members

- Attending ICE or ISAP check-ins
- USCIS biometrics appointments
- Outside homes
- Outside schools
- During traffic stops
- Workplaces
- Immigration court
- Outside of county court and jails

It is important to prepare for this increased risk

Data-Sharing with DHS

Transportation Security Administration (TSA)

- [TSA is sharing airline passenger information with ICE](#) to cross-reference and deploy agents for enforcement
- *If you have a deportation order or are undocumented, it is best to avoid traveling by plane or going to the airport for any other reason*

Flock Safety automated license plate readers (ALPRs)

- At least 8 state law enforcement agencies enabled direct sharing of their automated license plate readers (ALPR) networks with CBP, and federal agencies used that data to conduct immigration enforcement ([report](#))

Washington State Department of Licensing (DOL)

- 15 verified cases where drivers in WA were subjected to immigration enforcement due to federal agents searching their license plate number in a WA DOL database through a national data-sharing platform ([report 1](#), [report 2](#))

Data-Sharing with DHS

Medicaid Data

- A federal court held that [ICE can use Medicaid data](#) gathered by states for immigration enforcement
- [What can be shared?](#) Information of people without status: citizenship, immigration status, address, phone number, date of birth, and Medicaid ID
- *Each patient should assess individual situation when determining whether to apply for benefits*
 - Weighing the benefits of accessing public benefits to the vulnerabilities if the federal government obtains their data for immigration enforcement
 - If possible, patients may provide a PO Box instead of a physical address
 - Provide the minimal amount of data possible for receiving benefits

WA Apple Health Program Eligibility

- [Apple Health](#) is the name for Medicaid in Washington. Apple Health is free or low-cost health insurance coverage for those who [qualify](#). Covered services include primary care, emergency visits, maternity services, pediatric care, dental services, vision care, prescription medications and more
 - [Apple Health for Kids](#)
 - [Apple Health for Pregnant Individuals](#)
 - [After-Pregnancy Coverage](#)
 - [Apple Health Expansion](#)
- Remember each patient should assess their individual situation when determining whether to apply for benefits
- HCA statement released 02/03/2026 on use of Apple Health (Medicaid) client data [here](#)
 - Apple Health clients may view the client frequently asked questions (FAQ) ([available in 20 languages](#))

Avoid Collecting Immigration Status Information

- Avoid asking for patients' immigration status unless absolutely necessary like Medicaid enrollment
 - If collected, do not include immigration status in medical or billing records
- Reminder, hospitals in Washington:
 - Cannot deny patients access to care based on an inability to pay
 - Offer [Charity Care](#) financial aid to help patients pay hospital bills
 - Per [RCW 70.170.060](#) it is an unreasonable burden to require a patient to apply for any state or federal program where the patient is obviously or categorically ineligible or has been deemed ineligible in the prior 12 months

End of “Protected Areas” Memorandum

- Previously, an ICE policy protected certain areas from immigration enforcement
 - Churches
 - Schools
 - Healthcare facilities
- Trump Administration got rid of this policy

What can be done?

- What healthcare facilities can do:
 - Understand public vs. private areas
 - Train staff on how to respond to ICE presence
 - Designate person to review warrants
 - Be ready to consult a lawyer
 - Practice

- What individuals can do:
 - Emergency preparedness
 - Know your rights
 - Ask your employer to implement guidance if they haven't already

Know Patient Rights

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Constitutional Rights

- Regardless of immigration status, we all have:
 - the right to remain silent; and
 - the right to not be unreasonably stopped, searched, or arrested
- You can assert your right to remain silent at any time and place
- The degree of protection of your right against unreasonable searches and seizures, however, depends on where you are:
 - **In public spaces** your right against unreasonable searches and seizures is at its weakest
 - **In private spaces** your right against unreasonable searches and seizures is at its strongest
- *Your patients may be more vulnerable to immigration enforcement actions when they are in areas of your facility that are open to the public than when they're in areas that are considered private*

Health Care Providers and Patients Have Legal Rights

- Disclosure of information
 - Health care providers have no affirmative legal obligation to inquire into or report to federal immigration authorities about a patient's immigration status
 - The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy law of 1996 generally prohibits the use or disclosure of personal health information without a patient's consent, except when required by law
 - Some HIPAA exceptions, including the permission to disclose information requested by law enforcement officials for law enforcement purposes, allow for personal health information to be shared under some circumstances, but its release is generally not required

Health Care Providers and Patients have Legal Rights Cont.

- Warrants and consent
 - Health care providers may refuse to provide information about patients to law enforcement officials unless the request for information is pursuant to a warrant issued by a judge for a specifically identified individual or another order issued by a court

Your Rights in Public

- Agents can approach you and ask questions
- You have the right to:
 - Refuse to answer questions or hand over documents
 - Ask, “Am I under arrest?” and, “Am I free to go?”
 - Ask to speak to a lawyer
- Legal Permanent Residents (green card holders), must show the immigration agent their permanent resident card
- To detain someone, agents must have a warrant (administrative OK) or reason to suspect that someone is in the country without permission
 - Running away can serve as reason

Your Rights in Private Spaces

- Your right against unreasonable searches and seizures are the strongest in private spaces
- A federal agent cannot enter a private space unless they have a judicial warrant or your permission to enter
 - Health care facilities should designate specific staff to act as authorized persons in such situations and train other staff to refer agents to the authorized persons and to avoid any action that could be interpreted as consent

If Federal Agents Come into a Private Space

- You have the right to:
 - Refuse to open the door
 - Refuse to give the agents documents or information
 - Ask them to show you an ID and a **judicial warrant**
 - Confirm the correct address and names are on judicial warrant
- Do not give the agent documents or information
 - You do not have to tell them how to find the person that they want to arrest if they are not there
- Try to be calm and respectful
- Running, lying, or showing false or foreign documents can lead to issues in someone's immigration case

“Plain View” Exception

- Even without a warrant:
 - ICE can examine anything in plain view
 - Including conversation in private areas that can be heard from public areas

Key Components of Judicial Warrant

AO 93 (Rev. 12/09) Search and Seizure Warrant (USAO CDCA Rev. 01/2013) U.S. DISTRICT COURT USA

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the
Central District of California

Name of the court →

In the Matter of the Search of)
(Briefly describe the property to be searched)
or identify the person by name and address))
LG (VX9100) cellular telephone)

Case No. CR 13-2895M
Case number, note that it does not start with A →

SEARCH AND SEIZURE WARRANT
Indicates that this is a warrant to "search/seize" and also specific — the warrant must state what they are looking for. It may →

To: Any authorized law enforcement officer

Has the name of a court; the case number and says what kind of warrant it is

until the facts justify it, the later specific date of _____

Date and time issued: 11-4-13 11:30 am

City and state: Los Angeles, California

ALICIA G. ROSENBERG
Judge's signature

Alicia G. Rosenberg, U.S. Magistrate Judge
Printed name and title

cas
ext
14
dat

Specific date and time and signed by a judge

Key Components of Administrative Warrant

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

File No. _____

Date: _____

Name of agency; says warrant for arrest of “alien”

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

Authorizes immigration officer under INA

YOU ARE COMMANDED to arrest and take into custody for removal proceedings under the Immigration and Nationality Act, the above-named alien.

Signed by an immigration officer, NOT a judge

(Signature of Authorized Immigration Officer)

(Printed Name and Title of Authorized Immigration Officer)

Signed by an officer NOT a judge

Consent (Permission)

- You consent by allowing the agent to come into a private space, opening the door is not the same as consenting to them entering a private space
- If an agent enters a private space without your permission you have the right to:
 - State that you did not give them consent to enter
 - Remain silent
 - Ask for a lawyer
 - Refuse to sign documents
- Showing false or foreign documents, resisting, or running away, may lead to an arrest and/or cause problems in someone's immigration case

Your Rights at Hospitals, Clinics, and other Private Spaces

Public	Private
DO NOT need a judicial warrant or permission to access	MUST have a judicial warrant or permission to access
Agent can make an arrest with an administrative warrant or probable cause	MUST have a judicial warrant to make an arrest
For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Parking lot● Lobbies open to the public	For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Break room● Patient Rooms

KWW and Written Policy

Designating Private Areas

- Under [Keep WA Working](#), **publicly operated** hospitals are required to [create a policy](#) on public/private areas, and here are some ways to do so
 - Limit access to private areas to people who are receiving or providing care, or who are otherwise necessary, such as a parent accompanying a child who is receiving care
 - To the extent possible, access to private areas intended for patients and their family members should be restricted to essential medical personnel (e.g., doctors and nurses), excluding all other staff and visitors during business hours
 - For example, the clinic's waiting room may be open to the public, but individuals must be invited to enter examination rooms, offices, and medical records areas
 - Alternatively, the waiting room may be open only to patients and people accompanying them, while the public must remain in areas outside the building
 - Consider visually separating areas where patients receive treatment from public waiting rooms

KWW and Written Policy

Designating Private Areas

- You can designate any area in your healthcare facility as private. Put up signs to clearly distinguish private and public areas!
 - Affix signs reading “Private” or similar wording, on doors leading to non-public areas
 - Create separate, nonpublic waiting areas after a check-in process; physical barriers around public spaces; visual shields; and locks or keycards
 - Designate specific employees as persons authorized to consent to entry into non-public spaces and instruct all other staff to refer anyone seeking admittance to nonpublic space to those authorized individuals



How Can Healthcare Providers Advocate for Patients

- If ICE requests to detain or speak with a patient, healthcare providers have the right to:
 - Inform the patient of their rights to refuse to speak with ICE agents
 - Provide support if they wish to contact an attorney
- If the patient is critically ill or in an unstable condition, explain that medical care takes precedence over enforcement actions
- Offer contact information for local immigration legal aid organizations or advocacy groups
- Reassure patients and families that the hospital is committed to providing care regardless of immigration status

How to Document the Incident & Conduct Post-Incident Review

- By documenting incidents, healthcare providers may assist in ensuring immigrants receive justice for unlawful arrests. Here are some steps that healthcare providers can take:
 - Record key details, including:
 - time, date, and purpose of the visit
 - copies or descriptions of any warrants or documents presented
 - actions taken by staff
 - Submit an internal incident report to hospital administration and legal counsel
 - Debrief staff and review actions taken during the incident
 - Update policies and training materials as needed to address any identified gaps
- It is important to listen to officer's commands to stand back and to avoid doing anything that an officer might perceive as physically interfering in arrests because there are federal laws that can be used to prosecute bystanders

Rights in a Vehicle

- Cars/Ambulances are both in public (on the street) and private (interior of the car/ambulance)
- Immigration enforcement agents do not need a judicial warrant to stop a vehicle, they need “reasonable suspicion”
- Agents cannot search a vehicle without a judicial warrant or your consent
- Agents can arrest you with an administrative warrant or if they have “probable cause” that you violated immigration law
 - Often, agents pull people over if they already have an administrative warrant for their arrest

Rights and Responsibilities if Pulled Over by ICE

- You are required under the law to provide the agent with your drivers license, registration, and proof of insurance
- Only the driver needs to show ID
 - But, agents can order all to exit the vehicle for "officer safety"
- Drivers and passengers have the right to:
 - Refuse to lower the window any more than necessary to pass the documents
 - Ask if they are free to go or if they are being arrested
 - Say they are remaining silent
 - Request to speak to an attorney
- Remember: running, or presenting false or foreign documents can cause problems for someone in their immigration proceedings

Rights in Detention

- Immigrants almost always have the right to a hearing with an Immigration Judge and the right to have an attorney (at no expense to the government)
 - Exception: final deportation order, expedited removal
- Immigration agents cannot take away a LPR's status without immigration proceedings
 - LPRs should not sign anything without consulting an immigration attorney
- Some statuses can protect people from deportation (e.g., DACA, TPS)
- People can file for certain protections to prevent your deportation

Family Safety Planning

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Immigrant Family Safety Plan



Immigrant Safety Plan for Youth and Children

January 14, 2025



The [LCYC ISP](#) is a document and a collective community resource designed to help parents plan for the care of their children (with or without legal status in the United States) should they become unable to care for them, particularly if they are detained or deported.

- Choose a Caregiver or Agent
- Important Document Checklist
- Washington State Birth Certificate
- Social Security Cards
- U.S. Passports

Safety Plan document is available in [7 languages](#)

Resources

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How to Locate Someone in Detention

- ICE online locator system
 - <https://locator.ice.gov/odls/#/search>
 - Can search using the person's A-Number and Country of Birth, or using their exact full name, country of birth and date of birth
- Visit NWIRP's webpage for more information on how to locate a loved one <https://nwirp.org/resources/nwdc/>

Contacting NWIRP for Someone in Detention

Email NWIRP's Detained Immigrant Advocates Unit (DIA) at **detaiinedreferrals@nwirp.org**

- In your email please include as much of the following information as possible:
 - Full name
 - A # (Government-issued ID)
 - Date of Birth
 - Country of Birth
 - Court date (if scheduled)
- If you are unable to send an email, please leave a voicemail with the information at:
 - Phone: 253.383.0519
 - Toll Free: 877.814.6444

For Healthcare Service Providers:

- [Health Care Providers and Immigration Enforcement: Know Your Rights, Know Your Patients' Rights](#)
- [Know Your Rights: Immigrant Safety in Hospitals and Clinics](#)
- [Responding to ICE in Emergency Departments: Protecting Patients and Navigating Legal Obligations](#)
 - [SAMPLE POLICY: Managing ICE Interactions in Emergency Departments](#)

For Non Profit Organizations and Social Service Providers:

- [NWIRP Advisory to Nonprofit Organizations and Social Services Providers \(Jan. 2025\)](#)

For families:

- [Know Your Rights: Five Things Parents Detained by ICE Should Know | CLASP](#)
- [Legal Council for Youth and Children](#) □ Safety Plan for Youth and Children
 - English, Spanish, Amharic, Arabic, French, Mam Qyol Mam and Tigrinya
- [More resources to prepare for possible deportation](#)

For everyone

- www.nwirp.org □ Resources
 - Asylum (videos in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese)
 - Know Your Rights
 - Recorded webinars
- [NIWRP Know Your Rights - Private VS Public Spaces.pdf](#)
- [Public Benefit Flyers](#)
- If you want to stay up to date on immigration updates, join our monthly webinar: nwirp.org/news-events/events/
- Please also join NWIRP's mailing list: nwirp.org/join/mailling-list
- ILRC private area signs: <https://bit.ly/3KZR26y>
- ILRC red cards: ilrc.org/redcards

Large-Scale Enforcement Action Response Collaboration

- **WAISN Hotline at 1-844-724-3737 and other local hotlines receive reports of potential ICE raids**
 - Plan: Hotline staff receive reports of a potential large scale raid and immediately communicate with NWIRP staff, including via ****largescaleraid@nwirp.org**** to determine potential raid location (before large-scale is confirmed)
****organizational partners can communicate directly with NWIRP****
- **Rapid Response Teams**
 - Trained rapid responders gather initial information, usually connected via local hotlines to verify that a large-scale raid (immigration enforcement action) is actively happening
- **NWIRP Legal Response Team (Staff and Volunteer Attorneys)**
 - NWIRP staff and volunteers are mobilized once large-scale raid is confirmed
 - Once on-site, provide legal assistance and information
 - NWIRP attorneys work with detained community; **free** immigration legal services

Upcoming NWIRP Webinars

- **April 2026 Community Immigration Updates Webinar**
 - Tuesday, April 21, 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
 - Spanish followed by English
- **May 2026 Community Immigration Updates Webinar**
 - Thursday, May 21, 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM
 - English followed by Spanish
- **Watch recorded webinars here:**
 - nwirp.org/webinars/

Thank you!