

Immigration Updates and Know Your Rights

October/ Octubre 2025

Presented by
January 22, 2025 - Schools

Northwest
IMMIGRANT RIGHTS
Project

NWIRP Services Are Free and Confidential

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, unless you provide informed consent to disclose information on your behalf.

All NWIRP services are free.

Important information. We recommend you obtain legal advice:

- to evaluate your individual situation
- before filing any USCIS forms or motions to immigration court
- before signing any immigration-related documents
- before making any decisions about your stay in the country

Parameters

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

- Individuals with immigration questions should seek the advice and counsel of a reputable and experienced immigration attorney.
- The information provided today is only guaranteed to be updated through today (October 21, 2025).
- To stay on top of immigration law updates, please go to:
 - Immigration Policy Tracking Project:
 - immpolicytracking.org
 - Litigation Tracker:
 - justsecurity.org/107087/tracker-litigation-legal-challenges-trump-administration
- Please also join NWIRP's mailing list: www.nwirp.org/join/mailing-list

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 Persons - 253-383-0519 / 877-814-6444
detainedreferrals@nwirp.org
- **Wenatchee:** 509-570-0054 / 866-271-2084
wenatcheeintake@nwirp.org

NWIRP Service Regions

Granger Seattle Tacoma Wenatchee



Federal Government Shutdown: Immigration Impact

Shutdown began on October 1, 2025

Impact on Immigration:

- USCIS operations are never affected by shutdowns
 - funded by application/petition fees paid
- Department of State visa adjudication and consular services are primarily fee-funded
- ICE and CBP functions are considered essential
- EOIR (Immigration Court) may be impacted
 - But currently, detained and non-detained dockets continue

ICE Operation: Targeting Unaccompanied Children

Announcement on October 3, 2025

- ICE sent letters offering unaccompanied children in ORR custody \$2500 to voluntarily return to their home countries in exchange for waiving immigration relief claims and legal rights
- Letters warn of enforcement consequences for declining, such as transfer to adult detention upon turning 18, or potential enforcement action against sponsors/family members in the U.S.
- Important that advocates/service providers ensure children understand their legal rights, and seek legal counsel before signing or accepting anything

Everyone's Rights

Everyone - both documented and undocumented - has rights in this country.

- Make sure you & others know what to do when approached by ICE
- You have the right to remain silent
- You have the right to demand a warrant before letting anyone into your home or allowing anyone to search you or your belongings
- You have the right to speak to a lawyer and to make a phone call
- You have the right to refuse to sign anything before you talk to a lawyer
- You (generally) have the right to refuse to show documents before speaking with a lawyer
- Remain calm and do not run away.

What Immigrant Families & Community Members Can Do Now

- Figure out what documents you should and should not carry with you
 - Carry work permit or green card
 - Do not carry documents from your country of origin
 - Do not carry false identity documents
 - Carry the ILRC red card
- Make a child care & family preparedness plan also known as a Safety Plan
 - Update your child's school: emergency contacts, pick-up person
 - Create a sheet of emergency numbers and a file of important documents that can be easily accessed
 - Complete a caregiver's authorization so that another adult can care for your children temporarily if necessary
- Talk to an immigration service provider about your immigration options

LCYC Family Safety Plan - Virtual Appointments

- **Legal Counsel for Youth and Children (LCYC)**
 - Immigrant Safety Plan
 - <https://lcycwa.org/isp>

IMMIGRANT SAFETY PLAN



Who is at risk of being arrested by ICE?

The law permits the federal government to place certain immigrants in deportation proceedings, including:

- Any person who is undocumented
- People with legal status who have certain criminal convictions or offenses

Who is at risk of being arrested by ICE?

- Not all immigrants are vulnerable to deportation.
- Most people have the right to have their case heard by an immigration judge before being deported.
- There are many types of immigration relief that provide protection against deportation for a temporary period (e.g. DACA, TPS, DALE).
- Lawful Permanent Resident status cannot be taken away without a reason - usually criminal convictions - and removal proceedings.

Who is at risk of being arrested by ICE?

- The federal government tells the agency ICE who it should arrest
- The priorities for arrest can change based on the policies of the federal government during a certain time

Who is at risk of being arrested by ICE?

- In the past, priorities have included:
 - People who the government considered a threat to national security or the public safety – for example, people with convictions for violent crimes or crimes involving guns or drugs
 - People who entered the United States without authorization after a certain date
 - People who have a deportation order
- ICE agents normally identify a person that they want to arrest in advance. Afterwards, they visit the home, work, etc. of that person, to search for them.

Important Advice for Everyone

- Know your A number.
- Keep all documents.
- Check the EOIR portal online or by phone (1-800-898-7180)
- Keep your address updated with the court or USCIS if you have a pending case or application.
- Understand the importance of attending Immigration court.

The screenshot shows the EOIR Automated Case Information portal. At the top, it displays a message: "An official website of the United States government | Here's how you know" and the EOIR logo. Below this is a yellow banner with the text "Court Closures Today June 15, 2022 | Please check <https://www.justice.gov/oir-operational-status> for up to date closures." On the right, there is an "English" dropdown menu. The main content area features a circular icon with a building and the text "Automated Case Information". Below this, a welcome message reads: "Welcome to the Automated Case Information system. The following information relates to the primary case only. Please contact your local court if you need bond hearing information." Another message below states: "If you are a recent arrival and were apprehended between ports of entry on or after May 28, 2021, placed in removal proceedings, and enrolled in Alternatives to Detention, please see the [Family Group Legal](#)." To the right, there is a form titled "Enter your A-Number" with a placeholder "A-Number *Required" and a "SUBMIT" button. A link "What's an A-Number?" is also present. A note at the bottom right states: "Case information from this automated resource is provided for convenience only. Documents the immigration court or Board of Immigration Appeals issue to you or your representative are the only official determinations related to your case."

Difference between ICE check-in and Immigration Court

ICE is the agency that detains and deports people.

- ICE handles check-in appointments.
- ICE is part of the Department of Homeland Security, often referred to as DHS.
- ICE does not tell the court when you move.
- If you miss a check-in, ICE may decide to look for you - but it will not result in a removal order.

Immigration court manages removal proceedings and court cases.

- Cases in immigration court are before a judge.
- Hearings before the immigration court are set by the court, not ICE. Notice is mailed by the court.
- The immigration court is part of the Department of Justice, also known as DOJ.
- If you miss court, you will be ordered removed (deported).

If I am at risk of being deported, what can I do?

- Know your rights to stay silent, to speak with a lawyer, and to not let immigration officials enter private spaces without a warrant signed by a judge.
- Make a plan in advance with family or other trusted people in your life.
- Avoid contact with immigration officials without first consulting with a lawyer.
- Avoid contact with the criminal justice system.

What can I do if ICE agents arrive at my house?

- Don't open the door.
- Identify who you are talking to: ask for ID and ask if they are ICE officers
- Ask the ICE officers to pass a judicial warrant under the door. If they don't have one, tell them: "I do not give you permission to enter."
- Don't give documents or information to ICE officers unless the officers show a judicial warrant
 - Tell them you don't want them to search
 - If they are looking for another person, ask them to leave their contact information. You do not have to tell them how to find the person that they want to arrest.
- Try to be calm and respectful.
- Don't lie.

Judicial warrants and ICE warrants

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY	Warrant for Arrest of Alien
File No. _____	
Date: _____	
<p>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</p> <p>I have determined that there is probable cause to believe that _____ is removable from the United States. This determination is based upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> the execution of a charging document to initiate removal proceedings against the subject; <input type="checkbox"/> the pendency of ongoing removal proceedings against the subject; <input type="checkbox"/> the failure to establish admissibility subsequent to deferred inspection; <input type="checkbox"/> biometric confirmation of the subject's identity and a records check of federal databases that affirmatively indicate, by themselves or in addition to other reliable information, that the subject either lacks immigration status or notwithstanding such status is removable under U.S. immigration law; and/or <input type="checkbox"/> statements made voluntarily by the subject to an immigration officer and/or other reliable evidence that affirmatively indicate the subject either lacks immigration status or notwithstanding such status is removable under U.S. immigration law. <p>YOU ARE COMMANDED to arrest and take into custody for removal proceedings under the Immigration and Nationality Act, the _____.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">S A I L</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p style="text-align: center;">(Signature of Authorized Immigration Officer)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Printed Name and Title of Authorized Immigration Officer)</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Certificate of Service</p> </div> <p>I hereby certify that the Warrant for Arrest of Alien was served by me at _____ [Location]</p> <p>on _____ (Name of Alien) on _____ (Date of Service), and the contents of this</p> <p>notice were read to him or her in the _____ language.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Language)</p>	
Name and Signature of Officer _____	
Name or Number of Interpreter (if applicable) _____	

Can ICE agents enter my house to arrest me?

If the ICE officials do not have an order signed by a judge, they cannot enter the house without the permission of an adult member of the house.

Everyone can repeat these phrases in their best language:

- **I DO NOT WANT TO TALK TO YOU**
- **I DO NOT WANT TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS**
- **I DO NOT GIVE YOU PERMISSION TO COME INSIDE**
- **PLEASE LEAVE A CARD WITH YOUR NAME AND NUMBER**
- **I DO NOT WANT TO SPEAK TO YOU; PLEASE LEAVE**

Can ICE agents enter my house to arrest me?

Opening the door when ICE agents knock is not the same as giving them the right to enter.

If ICE agents force their way into a home or search without consent, you can still say that you don't consent.

Everyone can repeat these phrases in their best language:

- **I DO NOT CONSENT TO YOU BEING IN MY HOME.
PLEASE LEAVE.**
- **I DO NOT CONSENT TO THIS SEARCH.**
- **I DO NOT WANT TO GIVE YOU ANY DOCUMENTS.**

What should I do if I encounter ICE in public?

- The interactions occur rapidly and the ICE agents might call your name in public and ask you to confirm your name or identity in order to then arrest you
- Before giving your name or answering questions, ask “Am I free to leave?”
 - If they say yes, you should leave and respectfully say, “I don’t want to answer any questions.”
 - If they say no, exercise your right to remain silent. Say, “I don’t want to answer any questions. I want to talk to a lawyer.”

What should I do if ICE stops my car?

ICE does not need a judicial warrant to stop a car.

But it's not always clear WHO is pulling over your car with sirens or lights.

Pull over and ask questions to find out if the officers are ICE and why they stopped you.

- “ARE YOU THE POLICE?”
- “ARE YOU HIGHWAY PATROL?”
- “ARE YOU IMMIGRATION?”
- “WHY AM I BEING STOPPED?”

If ICE stops me in public can they search my belongings?

ICE needs a judicial warrant or your consent to search your bag, inside your pockets, or the glove box or trunk of your car

- ICE cannot search these things without a warrant or your consent. SAY:

→ I DON'T CONSENT TO YOU SEARCHING ME.

- If officers search your belongings or your car, SAY:

→ I DON'T CONSENT TO YOU SEARCHING MY BELONGINGS.

→ I DON'T CONSENT TO YOUR SEARCHING MY CAR.

What are my rights if ICE detains me?

- You have the right to remain silent
- You have the right to speak to a lawyer and to make a phone call
- You have the right to refuse to sign anything before you talk to a lawyer
- You generally have the right to refuse to show documents before speaking with a lawyer

ANY INFORMATION THAT YOU PROVIDE CAN BE USED AGAINST YOU

What are my rights if ICE detains me?

You will almost always have the right to a hearing with an Immigration Judge and the right to have an attorney represent you. Generally, unless you already have a final deportation order, an ICE agent cannot just grab you and take you to deport you.

Forms of protection from deportation

- Asylum
 - Were you harmed in the past or do you fear harm in the future?
 - Who harmed you and why did they specifically target you to harm?
 - Can the government in your country protect you from harm?
 - Can you live safely anywhere else in your country?

Other forms of protection from deportation

- U Visa
- T Visa
- VAWA Self-petition
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status
- Temporary Protected Status

Large-Scale Raid Response Collaboration

WAISN HOTLINE: 1-844-724-3737

- **WAISN Hotline (and other local hotlines) receive reports of potential ICE raid**
 - Hotline staff receive reports of a potential large scale raid
 - Hotline staff communicate with NWIRP staff, including via ****largescaleraid@nwirp.org**** to determine potential raid location (before large-scale is confirmed) ****partners communicate with NWIRP****
- **Rapid Response Teams**
 - Trained rapid responders gather initial information, usually connected via Hotline
 - Verify large scale raid (immigration enforcement) 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

Preventing *Notario* and other Fraud

- Only licensed attorneys or fully DOJ accredited representatives can represent you in immigration court, can provide legal services, and can give legal advice
 - Check credentials: Practicing attorneys have a State-issued bar license; DOJ accredited representatives can be searched here:
<https://share.google/AohylzsM5r2gW6raW>
- Do not sign documents that are blank, that you do not understand, or that have false information
- Do not pay money without understanding the process and obtaining a receipt and a copy of your retainer
- Do get copies of all applications or other documents prepared for you or filed on your behalf
- If the advice seems too good to be true, get a second opinion

Resources

- www.nwirp.org □ Resources
 - Asylum (videos in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese)
 - Know Your Rights
 - Webinars
- Legal Council for Youth and Children □ Safety Plan for Youth and Children
 - [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Somali](#)
 - If you live, work, or study in Seattle, LCYC offers one-on-one appointments to fill out the safety plan: lcycwa.org/isp

How to contact NWIRP

NWIRP - Seattle

615 Second Avenue, Suite 400, Seattle WA 98104

206-957-8600

www.nwirp.org

For people detained in the detention center in Tacoma

- detainerferrals@nwirp.org
- 877-814-6444 o 253-383-0519