



Immigrant Family Preparation Guide

Current as of December 2, 2024

Sources: Immigrant Legal Resource Center, National Immigration Law Center

Create a safety plan

- If you have a valid green card or work permit, carry it at all times. Otherwise carry a state ID or driver's license issued in the US, as long as it does not contain any immigration information. If you are undocumented but have been in the country for more than two years, carry documents demonstrating two years of presence.
- Carry important medical information such as the name of your doctor and any medications (name and dosage) you take.
- Memorize the phone number of a friend, family member, or attorney that you can call if you are arrested.
- Keep important documents such as birth certificates and immigration documents in a safe place where a friend or family member can access them if necessary.

Create a childcare plan

- Update emergency contact information at your child's school.
- Complete a Delegation of Parental Authority (DOPA) document to designate someone to take care of your child if you cannot.
- Register your child's birth with your native country's government (via the consulate) if your child was born in the US.

Know how to find someone detained by ICE

- Use ICE's online detainee locator (<https://locator.ice.gov/odls/homePage.do>) to find an adult who is in immigration custody. Or call the local ICE office (<https://www.ice.gov/contact/ero>). Make sure to have the person's alien registration number written down, if they have one.
- You can call the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) hotline number at 1-800-898-7180 (toll-free) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to get information on your case's status.

Report and document raids and arrests

This ILCM fact sheet is current as of
December 2, 2024.
This is not legal advice.

- If it is possible and safe for you to do so, take photos and videos of the raid or arrest. Also take notes on what happened.

Find legal help

- If you have a green card, find out if you can become a US citizen.
- If you have a visa, find out if you can get a green card.
- If you do not have immigration status, find out if you can get a visa or work permit.
- If you have a criminal record, find out how it could affect your case and if it can be removed from your record.

Nonprofit organizations that provide low-cost help can be found at www.immigrationlawhelp.org.

The immigration courts have a list of lawyers and organizations that provide free legal services: www.justice.gov/eoir/list-pro-bono-legalservice-providers-map.

At <https://www.immi.org/en/Info/FindLegalHelp>, you can type in a zip code to find a list of legal services near you.

You can search for an immigration lawyer using the American Immigration Lawyers Association's online directory: www.aialawyer.com.

The National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild also has an online find-a-lawyer tool: <https://nipnlg.org/work/find-attorney>.

The Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM) provides free immigration legal services to low-income immigrants in a variety of immigration matters. For more information about how we can assist you, please visit our website at www.ilcm.org or call us at 1-800-223-1368.