



Immigration-Focused Family Preparedness Plan

For Immigrant and Mixed-Status Families Facing Potential ICE Action This plan will help you prepare to protect your family in the event of immigration enforcement actions, such as detention or deportation. Taking steps now ensures your loved ones are safe, your rights are respected, and your family remains united during uncertain times.

1. Essential Contacts and Documents

1.1 Compile Emergency Contacts

Create a list of trusted individuals and organizations who can help in emergencies. Include:

- **Family and Friends:** Trusted adults who can care for children or offer support.
- **Legal Support:** Contact info for immigration attorneys or nonprofit legal organizations.
 - Examples: Use the [Immigration Advocates Legal Directory](#) to locate free or low-cost immigration help.
- **Consulate Information:** Contact your country's consulate for assistance if detained.
 - Many consulates have emergency hotlines specific to immigration issues.
- **Schools/Child Care:** Emergency contacts authorized to pick up children.

Tip: Memorize key numbers and give them to your trusted contacts and children (if age-appropriate).

1.2 Gather Important Documents

Organize and store critical documents in a secure, accessible place. Share copies with someone you trust.

Documents to Prepare:

- Passports (your own and your children's)
- Birth/marriage certificates
- Immigration documents (e.g., A-Number, work permits, green cards)
- Legal documents: powers of attorney, formal child care plans, restraining orders (if applicable)
- Financial information (bank accounts, rental/mortgage information)



- Health documentation: insurance cards, doctor information, medical histories, and medication lists

Pro Tip: Keep a digital backup of these documents in a secure, encrypted format.

2. Make a Child Care Plan

Planning for your children's care in case of your detention or deportation ensures their safety and stability.

2.1 Identify a Trusted Caregiver

Choose a reliable adult who can care for your children. Ideally, the caregiver:

- Has stable immigration status (such as U.S. citizenship or permanent residency).
- Lives nearby and can respond quickly.
- Knows your child's medical, educational, and emotional needs.

2.2 Decide the Right Kind of Care Plan

Option 1: Informal Arrangement

- A verbal agreement with a trusted adult to care for your children temporarily.
- **Limitations:** The caregiver won't have legal authority to make medical or educational decisions.

Option 2: Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit (CAA) (*California-specific*)

- Allows caregivers to enroll children in school and make certain medical decisions.
- Does not transfer custody or affect parental rights.

Option 3: Legal Guardianship

- Appointing a legal guardian grants the caregiver full legal custody.
- Requires court approval. Speak with an attorney before proceeding.

Action Step: Ensure schools, childcare providers, and caregivers know who is authorized to pick up your children. Update emergency contact forms regularly.



2.3 Prepare Your Children

- Help children memorize essential phone numbers and explain your plan in words they understand.
- Reassure them that trusted adults will care for them if you are unavailable.
- Share the location of important documents with older children (if appropriate).

3. Know Your Rights When Facing ICE

3.1 If ICE Comes to Your Home

- **Do not open the door** unless ICE presents a valid warrant signed by a judge.
 - A valid warrant must include your correct name and address. Request ICE slide it under the door or show it through a window.
- Stay calm and exercise your **right to remain silent**:
 - Show a “Know Your Rights” card, [here](#).
 - Do not share personal information, especially about your immigration status or birthplace.

3.2 If You Are Stopped by ICE in Public

- Ask if you are free to leave. If yes, calmly walk away.
- Provide only your name (if asked) but do not answer other questions.
- Do not sign any documents without consulting an attorney. Signing could waive your rights.

3.3 If You Are Detained

- Memorize your A-Number (Alien Registration Number) and share it with trusted contacts.
- Your family can locate you using the [ICE Detainee Locator Tool](#).
- Request a hearing before an immigration judge. Do not agree to voluntary departure without legal advice.

Important: Share your detention plan and legal support contacts with family ahead of time.



4. Protect Your Immigration Status

4.1 Update Your Status, If Possible

- If you have a green card, explore applying for U.S. citizenship.
- Check if you qualify for visas, work permits, or other forms of relief.

4.2 Avoid Immigration Fraud

Only consult licensed attorneys or accredited representatives. Beware of scammers promising guaranteed results.

- Visit [Stop Notario Fraud](#) for tips on avoiding fraud.

5. Emergency Preparedness Checklist

Keep These Items Accessible

1. **Emergency Contact List:** Family, caregivers, attorneys, and consulates.
2. **Key Documents:** See Section 1.2 for a detailed list.
3. **Know Your Rights Cards:** Keep these on hand to assert your rights.
4. **Cash:** In case digital payment options are unavailable.
5. **Backup Plan for Children:** A clear, documented plan shared with trusted individuals.

6. Additional Resources

- **Legal Resources:** Use the [Immigration Advocates Network](#).
- **Know Your Rights for Families:** [Informed Immigrant](#).
- **ICE Detainee Locator Tool:** <https://locator.ice.gov/odls/homePage.do>.

This plan equips you and your family to face immigration enforcement challenges with confidence and clarity. Proactive preparation today will protect your loved ones and ensure their safety tomorrow. Stay informed, stay connected, and know your rights.