

If You Are Detained by ICE

If someone is detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), it's crucial for them to take the following steps to protect their rights and work toward a resolution. The actions depend on the individual's circumstances, but here are general guidelines:

1. Understand Your Rights

- **Remain Silent:** The person has the right to remain silent and should avoid providing any information that could be used against them. They should only share their name.
 - **Ask for an Attorney:** The detainee has the right to speak with a lawyer. They should not sign anything without legal counsel.
 - **Request a Hearing:** Detainees have the right to request a bond hearing or immigration court hearing to challenge their detention or deportation.
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2. Contact Family or Friends

- Inform family or friends of the detention as soon as possible. They can help by locating an immigration lawyer or advocating for the detainee.
 - Keep all key documents (e.g., A-number, passport, or ID) accessible to trusted individuals who can assist with legal procedures.
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3. Seek Legal Assistance

- **Find an Immigration Lawyer:** Working with an experienced immigration attorney is crucial for understanding options, such as applying for asylum, seeking cancellation of removal, or applying for other forms of relief.
 - **Access Legal Aid Organizations:** If the person cannot afford a lawyer, they can seek help from nonprofit legal organizations specializing in immigration.
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4. Request Bond or Parole

- **Bond Hearing:** If eligible, the detainee can request a bond hearing to seek release while their case proceeds. Bond is granted based on risk of flight and danger to the community.
 - **Parole Requests:** In certain circumstances, the detainee can request humanitarian parole if they meet specific criteria.
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5. Gather and Preserve Evidence

- Collect supporting documents for their case, such as proof of family ties in the U.S., evidence of employment, medical records, or proof of community involvement.
 - Maintain copies of any communication or notices from ICE or immigration court.
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6. Stay Informed About Proceedings

- **Keep Track of Case Status:** Use the ICE detainee locator tool to find the detainee and track their case.

- **Attend All Hearings:** Missing a court date can result in an automatic deportation order.
 - **Follow Filing Deadlines:** Ensure timely filing of applications, appeals, or other legal documents.
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7. Access Consular Support

- Contact the detainee's consulate for assistance. Consular officials may help with legal representation, documentation, or advocacy.
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8. Be Cautious About Notarios

- Avoid unauthorized legal practitioners, such as "notarios," who may provide incorrect or harmful advice.
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9. Advocate for Release

- Family and friends can advocate for the detainee by contacting elected officials, organizing community support, or sharing the detainee's story publicly, if appropriate.