

Immigration Detention Support

The Trump administration has expanded immigration enforcement, and many immigrants may find themselves in immigration detention. This guide provides resources and suggestions on how to navigate the immigration detention system.

Know Your Rights if detained

- Every person in the U.S., regardless of immigration status, has some basic rights.
- If you are stopped, arrested, or detained by immigration or other law enforcement, you have the right to:
 - Remain silent and not answer questions.
 - Talk to a lawyer, or take time to find one.
 - Make a phone call, such as a call to a lawyer or your family.
 - Be visited by a lawyer in detention.
 - Contact your consulate.
- It is important to remember that you do not have to sign anything.
- To find Know Your Rights cards, visit nyic.org/kyr.
- For more information on what to do if you are arrested or detained by immigration, visit nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-what-to-do-if-arrested-detained-immigration

How to prepare for you and your family

- If you are not a U.S. Citizen and you have children, you should plan ahead in case you are ever detained by ICE, CBP or another federal agent.
- To prepare, you should:
 - Keep important documents in a safe place that other family members know about.
 - Decide who you would want to care for your children if you are not able to do so.
 - Legally designate someone to be the caretaker of your children.
 - Two of the most common ways to legally designate a caretaker are:
 - Designation of Person in Parental Relationship
 - Standby Guardianship
 - Fill out additional forms for your child, including a Travel Authorization Form or School Emergency Contact Form.
 - You may also want to consider filling out a Power of Attorney form.
- For more information, visit ilrc.org/resources/step-step-family-preparedness-plan
- To find fillable family preparedness forms, visit vlpcny.org/get-help/immigration/planning-for-immigrant-parents

If someone has been detained

How to find someone in detention

- If you are detained by immigration enforcement agents, you will likely be taken to a detention center.
- Individuals can be detained in government detention facilities, private detention facilities, local jails, or another holding facility.
- To find a person currently in ICE custody:
 - Go to locator.ice.gov and enter the person's:
 - Name, country of birth, and birth date
 - 9-digit A-number
 - The ICE locator should indicate where the individual is being detained, but it may take time for them to show up in this system.
 - If you think that your loved one may be detained in a specific ICE detention facility, you may also be able to find them by:
 - Searching for them at accesscorrections.com. If their name appears, they are most likely detained in the facility you selected.
 - Contacting the facility directly at ice.gov/detention-facilities
- If you cannot find someone using these online systems, you can contact an ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) field office: ice.gov/contact/field-offices
- For more information on finding someone in detention, visit
 - freedomforimmigrants.org/toolkit-lost-in-detention
 - nilc.org/resources/how-to-find-a-loved-one-after-a-u-s-immigration-arrest

How to contact someone in detention

- Even after locating an individual in detention, it can be difficult to contact and communicate with them.
- You may be able to contact an individual through:
 - Phone calls: Most facilities do not allow individuals to make a phone call to someone who is detained. Instead, an individual who is detained will have to call you from the facility.
 - Mail: To send mail to a detention facility, address the mail with the individuals full name and last four digits of their A number as well as the physical address of the facility.
 - Messaging & Video Calling: Some facilities use applications such as “Getting Out” so that individuals who are detained can communicate with family.
 - In-person visits: Facilities have specific visitation hours and visitation rules. Individuals should make risk assessments before deciding to visit an individual in detention.
- Each facility may have different rules regarding contacting individuals. For facility specific information, visit ice.gov/detention-facilities
- Be aware that modes of communication are monitored by officials. Make individual risk assessments when deciding how you contact your loved one.

If someone has been detained

How to find court information

- To find a person's court date and location:
 - Visit acis.eoir.justice.gov and enter the person's 9-digit A-number, or
 - Call [1-800-898-7180](tel:1-800-898-7180) and follow the instructions.

How to post bond

- A bond is money paid to DHS to guarantee that, if someone is released, they will appear in court for all of their hearings.
- If your loved one has been granted a bond:
 - You can post the bond online at cebonds.ice.gov
 - To post the bond, you must be a U.S. Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident.
 - You will need to provide two forms of identification.
 - If you are a U.S. Citizen, you can provide:
 - U.S. Passport
 - U.S. Birth Certificate
 - U.S. Citizen Born Abroad Document
 - USCIS Naturalization Certificate
 - Driver's License (REAL ID Card)
 - State-issued ID Card (REAL ID Card)
 - Military Identification Card
 - If you are a Legal Permanent Resident, you can provide:
 - Permanent Resident Card
 - Military Identification Card
 - You also will need the detained person's complete name, A number, the address where the person will live, and phone number.
 - To make the payment, you will need access to a bank account.
 - For a full step-by-step guide to posting bond, visit envisionfreedom.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/EnvisionFreedom_CeBond-Instructions.pdf
- If your loved one has been granted a bond that they cannot afford or you need general assistance with posting the bond, they may be eligible for bond assistance from a bond fund.
 - For information on bonds in New York state, visit envisionfreedom.org/get-support
 - For a list of bond funds across the country, visit bit.ly/localbailfunds

Get connected

How to get connected to legal support

- Everyone has the right to a lawyer, but the government will not give or pay for one.
- It is possible that your loved one may be eligible for a free attorney through the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project (NYIFUP).
- If someone is detained in a New York City Immigration Court or a New Jersey Immigration Court, you may be able to get legal representation from:
 - The Legal Aid Society, [212-577-3300](tel:212-577-3300)
 - The Bronx Defenders, [347-778-1266](tel:347-778-1266)
 - Brooklyn Defender Services, [718-564-6290](tel:718-564-6290)
- You can also call:
 - Immigrant Defense Project, [212-725-6422](tel:212-725-6422).
 - NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) Immigration Legal Support Hotline, [800-354-0365](tel:800-354-0365).
- If someone is detained at the Buffalo Federal Detention Facility in Batavia, NY, you may be able to get legal representation from:
 - ECBA Volunteer Lawyers Project, [716-847-0752](tel:716-847-0752)
 - Prisoner's Legal Services, [716-844-8266](tel:716-844-8266)
- Individuals are often transferred to different facilities across the country. To find a list of free or low-cost immigration legal services across the country, visit immigrationadvocates.org/legaldirectory.

How to get connected from inside detention

- If you want to get connected to resources from inside detention, you can call an immigration detention hotline.
- To call the National Immigration Detention Hotline, dial [92333#](tel:92333) from a facility phone.
 - The hotline is available Monday through Friday, 11am-11pm.
 - The hotline is free and unmonitored.
- To call the Justice for Migrant Families hotline for the Buffalo (Batavia) Federal Detention Facility, call [716-427-4917](tel:716-427-4917).
 - The hotline is available Monday through Thursday, 2pm-4pm and 6pm-8pm.