



# **Deportation Preparedness Kit**

*What to Do, Who to Call,  
How to Safeguard your Family*



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The Constitution protects everyone, regardless of documentation status, from discrimination based on race or national origin.

Once in the United States, everyone is entitled to certain protections, including the right to be treated fairly in court, to free speech, religious freedom, and other core civil rights.

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The ACLU is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, neither liberal nor conservative. Our mission is to protect the individual rights and fundamental freedoms of all.

The ACLU works daily in the courts, legislatures, and communities to defend and preserve the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and the laws of the United States. The ACLU has been operating for more than 80 years in San Diego & Imperial counties.

Unless otherwise stated, the information in this booklet applies to both documented and undocumented immigrants, as well as to U.S. citizens. It does not apply to encounters with immigration officers at the border, ports of entry, or international airports. **The contents of this booklet do not constitute legal advice. Consult an immigration attorney for legal advice.**

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## ACLU DEPORTATION PREPAREDNESS KIT

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Regardless of your citizenship status, you have constitutional rights!

## YOUR RIGHTS

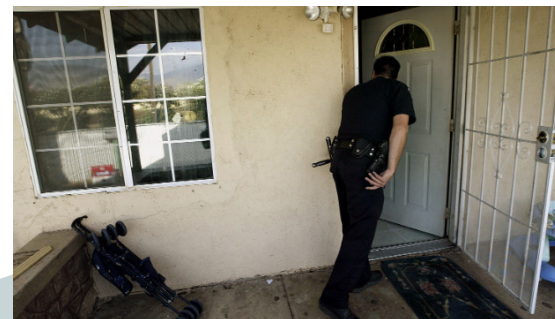
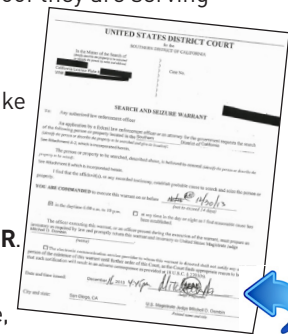
- You have the right to **REMAIN SILENT**. To exercise this right, you should tell the police, "I want to remain silent." Even if you answer some questions, you can still decide you don't want to answer any additional ones.
- You have the right to **SPEAK TO A LAWYER**. Tell the officer you'd like to speak to an attorney or your consulate. You are not required to answer any questions.
- You have the right to **make a phone call** if you are arrested.
- If you are not on probation or parole, you never have to consent to a search of yourself, your belongings, your car, or your house. You should say, "I do not consent to this search."
- You should ask, "**Am I under arrest? Am I free to go?**" Unless you do, the stop is considered voluntary, and thus legal. If you don't get a response, keep asking the question until you do.
- You have the right to an attorney if you are arrested. Request one immediately. If you are detained by ICE or CBP, an attorney *will not* be provided, but you have the right to get one yourself.
- If you are a U.S. citizen, you are not required to present any documents with your name, age, place of birth, nationality, or legal status. If you are undocumented and don't have valid immigration documents, remember, you can decide not to answer questions about your immigration status or whether you have immigration documents.
- If you are a documented immigrant 18 years or older and have been issued valid immigration documents, you are legally required to carry these documents with you at all times. It is usually a good idea to show the documents to avoid arrest.
- Don't sign anything you don't understand!**



**WHAT TO DO**  
**If the Police, FBI, or ICE Stop You**

Even if an officer wants to enter your home, you have rights and they need a warrant.

- Do NOT OPEN THE DOOR.** Don't send your children to open the door either.
- Ask the officer to IDENTIFY HIM/HERSELF** and show proof they are serving as an agent of the agency they say they represent.
- Ask to SEE A WARRANT.** Ask the officer to slide the warrant under the door. **REVIEW THE WARRANT** and make sure it authorizes officers to enter your home and search your property.
- If they do not have a warrant, officers are not authorized to enter. **YOU SHOULD NOT GIVE THEM PERMISSION TO ENTER.** Tell them, "I do not give you permission to enter my home."
- If the officers don't have a warrant and still enter your home, don't try to stop them. Tell them clearly, "I do not give you permission to be in my home." **Write down the name and badge numbers of all the officers involved in order to file a complaint.**
- If the officers do have a warrant, they can enter your home. However, **they can only search for the person or objects associated with the warrant.** The warrant may limit them to a certain room or to search for a particular item. Read it carefully before you allow them to enter your home, and do not give permission for officers to search beyond the warrant's limits.
- If the warrant is for one person and they are home, it may be best for that person to come outside to avoid having the officers come inside. Always open the door slightly; never open the door wide open.



**WHAT TO DO**  
**If the Police Want to Enter Your Home**

*Above all, stay calm.*

- 1 Remain silent.** You have the right to remain silent. You do not have to answer questions. You should tell the officer that you want to speak to an attorney before answering any questions. Say, "I will remain silent until I speak to an attorney."
- 2 Identify which agency arrested you.** Write down the name of the officers and their agency (San Diego Police Department, FBI, Imperial County Sheriff, ICE, etc.) and their identification numbers and license plate numbers. You can find this information on their uniforms or their cars. *If you don't have a pen or paper, remember at least one name and number.*
- 3 Don't sign any documents before speaking with a lawyer.** You always have the right to speak with a lawyer. The officers may try to intimidate you or trick you into signing. Don't let yourself be tricked! You may be signing away your right to a hearing before an immigration judge!
- 4 Contact your attorney or a family member.** You have the right to make a telephone call after you are arrested. *You should memorize the phone number of your attorney, family member, friend, or union representative so you can call in an emergency.*
- 5 Contact your consulate** if you are a foreign national arrested in the United States. You have the right to call your consulate or to have the deportation officer inform your consulate of your arrest. **Ask the deportation officer to see a list of embassies** and write down the phone number. The consul may assist you in finding a lawyer or offer to contact your family.
- 6 Ask for bond once you're in immigration custody.** Ask for bond even if the officers tell you that you are not eligible. You will have to show that you are not a flight risk or a danger to the community. Ask your family to start gathering documents to show that you have a connection to the U.S. (examples: evidence that family members are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents; check stubs; rental agreements, etc.).

## WHAT TO DO If You Are Arrested

- 7 Get a copy of the "Notice to Appear."** This is the document that contains the immigration charges against you.

**Above all, do not show any false documents and do not lie!**

- 8** Never show an officer false immigration documents, never use a false name, and never pretend that someone else's immigration documents are yours.

**If at any point your rights are violated while in detention, or while you are encountered by federal agents, please contact the ACLU of San Diego & Imperial Counties (619) 232.2121.**

## How to Recognize Law Enforcement Branches



### San Diego County Sheriff

Sheriff deputies generally wear a tan shirt and olive/green pants. Their patch is on their right hand sleeve. They wear a badge above their left front pocket. Imperial County deputies' uniforms are similar.



### San Diego Police Department

SDPD officers wear matching very dark blue (looks like black) pants and shirt. They have patches on both sleeves. They wear a badge above their left front pocket.



### Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

ICE officers look similar to SDPD officers. They generally wear matching dark blue (looks like black) pants and shirt, though they may wear khaki pants and sometimes may even wear jeans. They often wear a vest that says "POLICE ICE." They often don't wear a uniform with a patch.



### U.S. Border Patrol

Border Patrol officers generally wear matching green pants and shirt. They wear a patch on their left arm that says "U.S. Border Patrol" and a "U.S. Customs and Border Protection" patch on their right arm.



**Plan family drills and practice a plan for your entire family in case, at any moment, you or someone in your family faces deportation.**

- 1 Know what documents you should carry with you.** Carry a card with the contact information of your immigration attorney and/or union representative. Carry a card that indicates in English that you wish to remain silent.
- 2 Make a plan to care for your family.** If you have children or elderly relatives you care for, make arrangements in advance for a family member or friend or neighbor to care for them in case you are ever detained. Make sure everyone in your family knows of these plans. Make sure that you choose people you trust to make decisions for you if you are detained. They will need to do things like help you withdraw money for deportation expenses or pay a mortgage or rent. You can sign a Power of Attorney agreement to give this power to someone if you are arrested.
- 3 If you have an immigration number, make sure your family and designated friends have it** as well as your full name and date of birth. You will find this number on your work permission or your residency card. The number begins with an "A."
- 4 Make sure your family knows how to contact you if you are detained.** Family members should contact the local office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Detention and Removal Branch if they do not know where you are detained. Ask to speak with a supervisory deportation officer, and give the full name and A# of the detainee. If you don't have the contact information for your local field office, contact the Immigration Detention Centers in San Diego (619) 661.9119 or in Calexico at (760) 619.7200.



## DEVELOP A Deportation Preparedness Plan

- 5** deportation defense who may be able to represent you if you are detained. Memorize the name and phone number of your attorney. Have the names and phone numbers of several good immigration attorneys posted near the phone at home so family members can call if you are detained.

### Local resources you may wish to call on for referrals:

- **Low-Cost Legal Assistance**  
Legal Aid Society of San Diego  
Toll-free: 1.877.534.2524
- **Referrals to San Diego County Attorneys**  
San Diego County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service  
Toll-free: 1.800.464.1529 or 619.231.8585

The immigration laws and system are very complex. It is *very* important to screen several immigration attorneys before you decide who should represent you in case you need one. A good way to do this is to set up free consultations with local immigration attorneys. Ask what kind of experience they have with deportations and about their success rate. Ask about what specific types of relief you are eligible for in case you are ever placed in removal proceedings.

**Always ask for a written contract** from your attorney before paying him/her.

- 6 Copy all your immigration documents.** Keep at least one copy of all immigration documents that have been filed with immigration with a friend or family member you trust. Collect important documents in a secure, easy-to-find location so that your family can access them easily. Make a list of the names and contact information of any lawyer who has ever represented you.



## San Diego County Jails

To find someone who has been arrested by the San Diego Police Department and charged with a crime, contact the San Diego County Sheriff.

**Main San Diego County Sheriff's Office - San Diego (619) 610.1647**

9621 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego, CA 92123

**Online jail locator tool:** [https://www.sdsheriff.net/contact\\_locations.html](https://www.sdsheriff.net/contact_locations.html)

## Imperial County Jails

To find someone who has been arrested by any of the police departments in Imperial County and charged with a crime, contact the **Imperial County Sheriff**.

**Imperial County Sheriff's Office (760) 339.6367**

328 Applestill Road, El Centro, CA 92243

## U.S. Customs & Border Patrol (CBP)

To find someone you believe is being detained by CBP, call or visit their border station. CBP generally doesn't disclose information about people they are detaining. We think that's wrong. Some people have received answers by being persistent.

*For vehicle seizures or asset forfeiture questions, contact the Vehicle Seizure Office. **San Diego Sector, (619) 671.1800.***

**San Diego - CBP**

(619) 216.4000

2411 Boswell Road

Chula Vista, CA 91914

**El Centro - CBP**

(760) 335.5700

221 West Aten Road

Imperial, CA 92251

## Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

### *San Diego*

To speak to an officer in charge of removal proceedings for the person who was detained, and to learn what bail is set, you will need to have the person's A#.

**San Diego ICE, (619) 710.8300.**

### *Calexico*

*If you are detained in Calexico, there currently is no direct line to contact deportation officers. For Calexico, ask your deportation officer to contact your family or get his/her contact information so you can give it to your family to call.*

**Online ICE locator tool:** <https://locator.ice.gov/odls/homePage.do>

# HOW TO Find Someone in Detention

## Working Together, Miracles Can Happen

Family, friends, and community members can advocate for your release.

It is important to be part of your community and participate in community organizations that advocate for immigrant rights. Having strong ties to your community can help if you are ever facing deportation.

Community members can gather letters of support from faith leaders and legislators.

**REPORT ABUSE AGAINST IMMIGRANTS!** Contact the American Civil Liberties Union if you or someone you know has suffered abuse at the hands of law enforcement officers.

For more information on how you can become involved with local advocates, please contact:

### **Gloria Cruz**

*Immigrant Rights Organizer*

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619.232.2121

[www.aclusandiego.org](http://www.aclusandiego.org)



# HOW TO Contact the ACLU