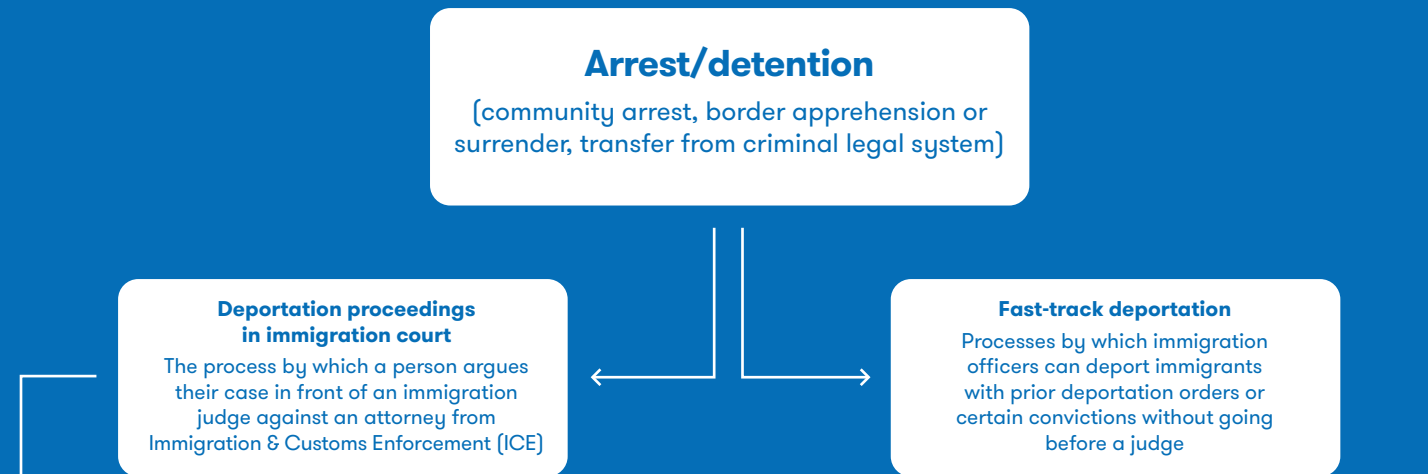
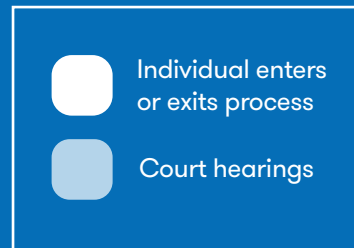


# The flow of immigration court cases

Deportation proceedings in immigration court are complex and require zealous representation so that people can navigate them successfully. Programs should be designed and funded to provide representation in custody decisions, merits hearings and appeals, and collateral proceedings. Representation should begin as early as possible and continue throughout the life of the case.



## Collateral proceedings

Immigration court is one of several settings where decisions are made about a person's case. Many people will pursue "collateral proceedings" outside of immigration court to resolve legal issues that may affect their case by allowing for bond eligibility, establishing grounds for termination, or qualifying for relief. These proceedings may occur concurrently with deportation proceedings.

State court	Federal court	U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
(for example, post-conviction relief to challenge the conviction underlying the government's case)	(for example, habeas proceedings to argue that detention is unlawful, federal post-conviction relief)	(for example, applications for certain forms of relief)

