



Southern California Chapter

AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
RE: ICE ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS
JANUARY 8, 2016

WHAT WE KNOW

On January 4, 2016 Secretary Jeh C. Johnson issued a statement advising the public that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, along with domestic and international partners, would be undertaking increased removal and enforcement actions effective immediately.

SPECIFIC TARGETS OF ENFORCEMENT

ICE has specifically stated that the target of these operations consist of:

- Adults and their children from Central America who
- were apprehended after May 1, 2014
- Have been issued final orders of removal by an immigration court and who
- Have exhausted appropriate administrative remedies (meaning you have been to court and the immigration judge ordered you removed and you did not timely file an appeal or your appeal was denied)

Additionally, the following groups of people fall under the highest priority for ICE enforcement resources (Priority 1 according to a Memorandum issued by Secretary Johnson on November 20, 2014):

- Aliens engaged in or suspected of terrorism or who pose a danger to national security
- Aliens **apprehended at the border or ports of entry** while attempting to unlawfully enter U.S.
- Aliens involved in either criminal street gangs or in an organized criminal gang
- Aliens convicted of an offense classified as a felony or an “aggravated felony” for immigration purposes
- Any alien who entered the U.S. **on or after January 1, 2014.**

→ **If you fall into any of these categories, please seek legal advice immediately. Time is of the essence.**

→ **We recommend you pursue proper legal advice to determine if all legal remedies have been exhausted in your case. For example, individuals with final orders of removal may still be eligible to apply for a late appeal, a motion to reopen, or a stay of deportation under certain circumstances.**

GENERAL TARGETS

- Even if you do not fall under one of the categories above, you can be detained if you come into contact with immigration officials.
- Those at higher risk are people with prior deportations or a criminal history.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

- Even if you are undocumented, you have rights.
- You have the right to refuse to open your door if ICE does not produce an arrest warrant or a search warrant.
- You have the right to not give information.
- Ask to speak to an attorney.
- Do not sign any document without consulting with an attorney.
- If a person chooses to speak to an ICE agent or officer, have the person step outside the home and close the door. He or she cannot enter without a warrant.

WHAT IMMIGRATION CAN DO

IMPORTANT WARNINGS

- Law enforcement officials, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement Officers are allowed to use ruses. They can make up a reason to knock on your door.
- Immigration may not be wearing identifying clothing.
- They can show up very early in the morning or in the middle of the night.
- They can pretend that they are looking for one person, enter the home and then apprehend a person in that home.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

IF YOU ARE DETAINED AND/OR NEED ASSISTANCE

- If you are in need of immediate legal advice or representation, you may call (213) 985-1776 for additional referrals and information to legal resources that may help you. Please have as much information as possible available about any removal orders or court proceeding notices you or your children have received to facilitate the screening process.
- Please contact your local Foreign Consulate to ask for assistance. If you are detained, you have a right to request to speak with a representative from your foreign consulate. Consular officials are permitted to have access to persons who are in detention.
 - MEXICO:
 - Los Angeles, CA (213) 219 – 0175
 - San Bernardino, CA (877) 552 – 9832
 - EL SALVADOR:
 - Costa Mesa, CA (714) 979 – 1190
 - Los Angeles, CA (213) 383 – 6134
 - Santa Ana, CA (714) 972 – 8105, 8124, 8131
 - GUATEMALA → Los Angeles (213) 365 – 9251 extension 52
 - HONDURAS → Los Angeles (213) 995 – 6406, 6409
- Please submit any reports of ICE activity to reports@aila.org and chair@socalaila.org
- For information about AILA, please visit www.socalaila.org or www.aila.org