



Know YourRights



Morningside Heights Legal Services, Inc. at Columbia Law School has developed these slides as an educational tool.

These slides are not a substitute for individual legal advice in your case.



Evaluate Your Immigration Status

Assess all your immigration options. Consider whether you may be eligible for:

1. Temporary Protected Status
2. Adjustment of status through a family member or loved one
3. Asylum or other forms of humanitarian relief

If you are part of a mixed status family, consider having those with U.S. citizenship apply for U.S. passports.

For free high-quality legal advice about the asylum process, join the Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP), <https://www.asylumadvocacy.org/>

Secure Work Authorization

Be Proactive:

1. Apply for your first work permit as soon as possible, if you are eligible, even if you do not plan to work.
2. Apply to renew your work permit if your work permit will expire in the coming months.
3. Consider whether to form an LLC.

For more information about securing work authorization, visit the Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP), <https://help.asylumadvocacy.org/work-permits/>.

Enhance Your Social Media and Data Privacy

- Make your social media accounts private.
- Limit your social media presence to hide your immigration status, the status of your loved ones, and your locations.
- Make yourself harder to find on the Internet.
 - Request that [Google](#) and other search engines remove personally identifiable information or doxxing content about you.
 - Ask organizations to take down published profiles or articles about you and your loved ones.
 - Ask websites where you have accounts to delete your data.
- Consider
 - Using more secure methods of communication, such as Signal.
 - Using a VPN, which helps mask your browsing history and location.
 - Removing the use of Touch ID, Face ID, or other forms of biometric security from your mobile device.

Organize Your Identity Documents

- **Scan all of your identity documents.**
 - Share the scanned versions with a few trusted individuals.
- **Organize your original identity documents.**
 - Put them in a folder in a safe location.
 - Make sure that someone you trust has easy access to the folder in case of an emergency.
- **Only carry forms of ID that have been issued in the United States**
 - For example: a driver's license issued in the United States or a green card.

Develop an Emergency Plan

- **Prepare a list of emergency contact phone numbers.**
 - If you are detained, your phone will be taken from you.
 - Consider memorizing emergency contact numbers.
 - Carry a list of emergency contact numbers with you on a sheet of paper at all times. Have your children do the same.
- **Develop a plan for who would take care of your children, your parents, and your loved ones, in case of an emergency.**
 - Let your children's schools know who is authorized and not authorized to pick up your children.
 - Consider whether to prepare a Power of Attorney Delegating Parental Authority to another potential caretaker. This may reduce the likelihood that your children are sent to foster care to live with strangers if you are unable to care for them.

Stay Safe

- Avoid arrest and detention.
- Carry an Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) red card at all times.
- If unknown people are knocking at the door of your home, do not open the door. You can slip an ILRC red card under your door if you would like.
- If an immigration officer approaches you in a public location, you have the right to remain silent.
 - You do not need to answer questions asked by an immigration agent.
 - Ask the agent if you are free to leave. If the agent says yes, leave calmly.
- Do not sign anything without first speaking with a lawyer.
- **Remember: You have the right to remain silent and consult with a lawyer.**

In the Event of a Raid

- If you are targeted:
 - Officers may have discretion as to who to arrest.
 - If you are approached by officers, you have the right to remain silent.
 - You have the right to remain silent about your birth place and immigration status.
 - Only carry forms of ID that have been issued in the United States (driver's license, green card).
 - If applicable, explain that you are a caretaker of children or other vulnerable individuals.
 - You have the right to speak to a lawyer and the right to make a phone call.
 - Do not sign anything without first speaking to a lawyer.
 - ***Try to remain calm and do not try to run away.***

In the Event of a Raid

If you are a witness and your immigration status permits:

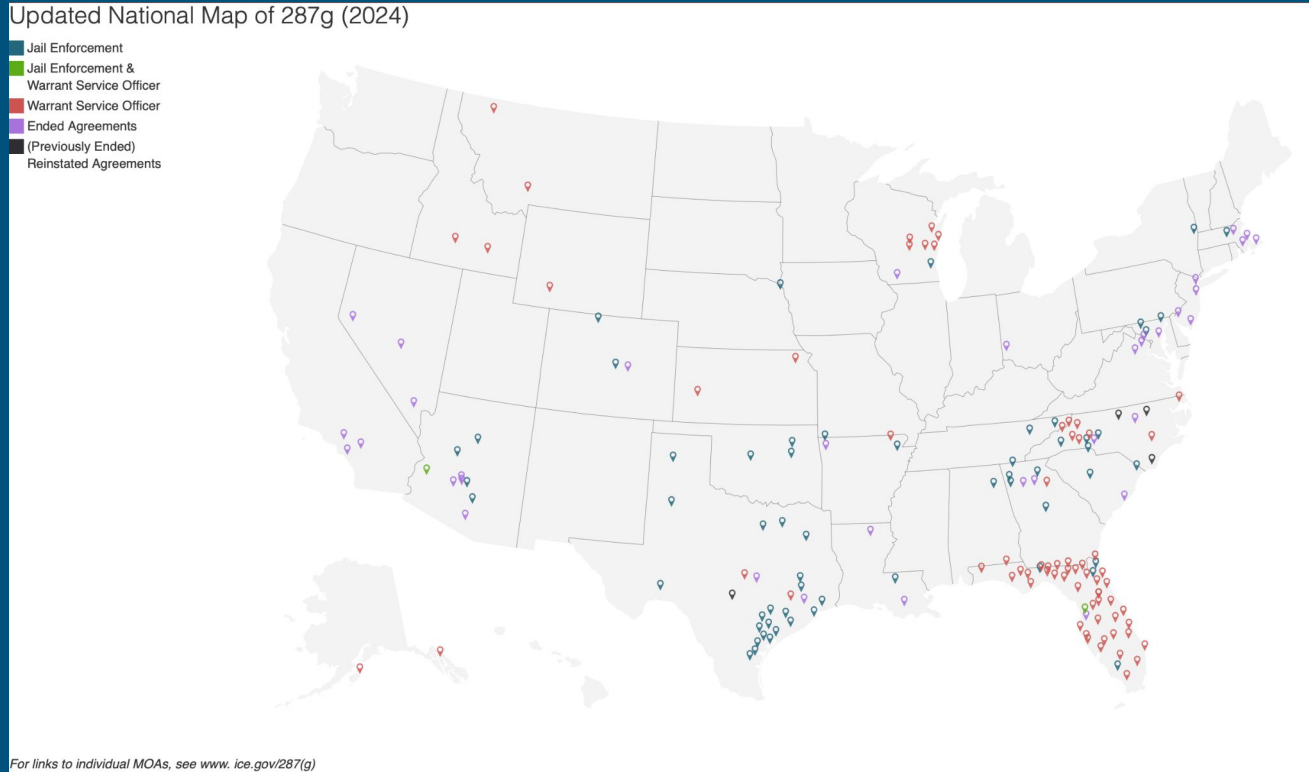
- Be an upstander.
 - Take photos and videos of the encounter. Narrate the date, time, and location where the incident is occurring while recording.
 - If you are able, gather the names and badge numbers of the law enforcement officers involved in the raid.
 - Call an ICE raid hotline, such as the United We Dream Hotline: 1-844-363-1423.

Consider Moving Within the United States

If you live in an area of the United States where raids are more likely to be carried out, consider moving to an area of the country where raids are less likely to be carried out (i.e., areas *without* **287(g) agreements**).

- Section 287(g) agreements allow state and local law enforcement agencies to act as immigration enforcement agents.
- There are currently more than 60 counties in the United States with 287(g) agreements.
- The list of counties with 287(g) agreements is available at <https://www.ice.gov/identify-and-arrest/287g>.
- Moving to a county without a 287(g) agreement will not necessarily protect you from a raid, but it could make this possibility less likely.

2024 Map Showing Counties with 287(g) Agreements



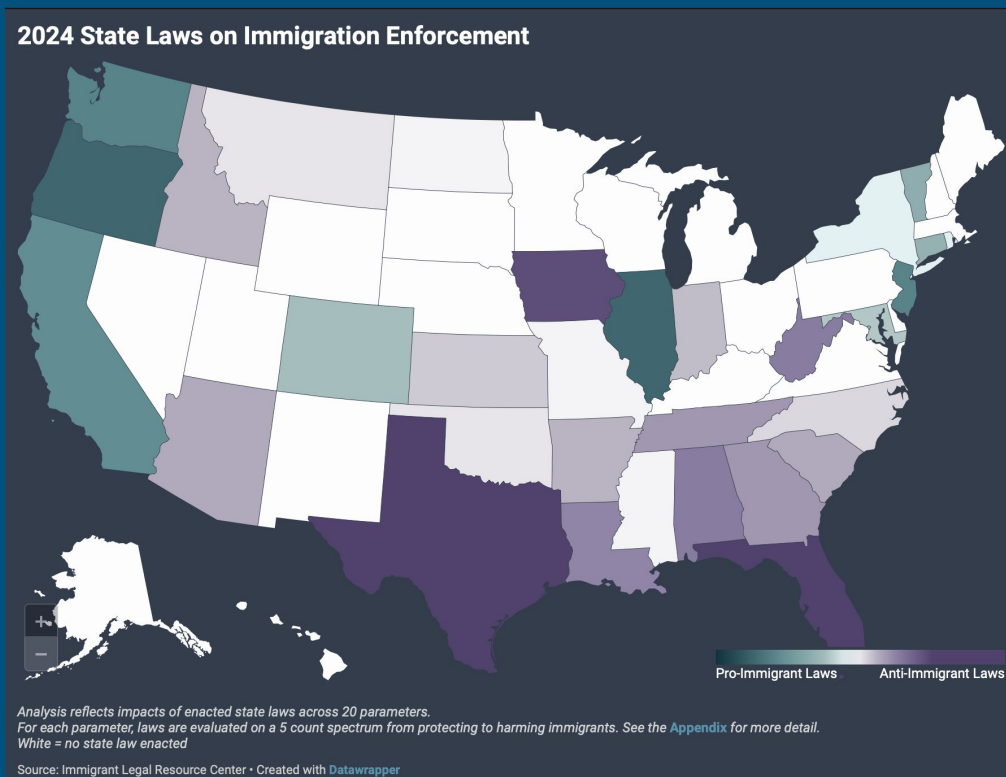
Source: Immigrant Legal Resource Center, <https://www.ilrc.org/resources/national-map-287g-agreements>

Sanctuary Cities and Sanctuary States

Sanctuary cities and **sanctuary states** limit or deny cooperation with the federal government in the enforcement of some aspects of immigration law.

- Several members of the incoming administration, including the incoming White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy Stephen Miller and the incoming “border czar” Tom Homan, have indicated that the Trump administration will be targeting sanctuary cities, seeking to crackdown on the practice of limiting enforcement of immigration law.
- Living in a sanctuary city is **NOT** a guarantee of safety.

2024 Map on Immigration Enforcement Laws



Source: Immigration Legal Resource Center, <https://www.ilrc.org/state-map-immigration-enforcement-2024>

Myth #1 - Status of DACA

Myth: DACA will end on Day 1 of the Trump administration.

Facts:

A case considering the legality of DACA is currently pending before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Oral arguments took place in October 2024 and a decision is forthcoming.

Under President Biden, the federal government defended the legality of DACA in federal court.

Under President Trump, the federal government may change its position on the legality of DACA. We do not know what steps, if any, the Trump administration may take to rescind the DACA program. Any efforts, especially abrupt efforts, to rescind DACA will be met with legal challenges.

Myth #2 - Birthright Citizenship

Myth: The Trump administration can easily end birthright citizenship.

Facts:

Birthright citizenship is protected by the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Any action by the Trump administration to end birthright citizenship will be met with legal challenges.

Although the Trump administration may take steps to make it more difficult for individuals to prove they were born in the United States, the Trump administration cannot unilaterally amend the U.S. Constitution to rescind the 14th Amendment's guarantee of birthright citizenship.

Myth #3: Access to Education

Myth: Undocumented children and students cannot continue their education in the United States.

Facts:

All children have the right to enroll in and attend public school. The U.S. Supreme Court reached this ruling in *Plyler v. Doe*, a case decided in 1982.

All students, regardless of immigration status, are lawfully able to apply to and attend colleges and graduate schools.

Myth #4: Mass Detention & Deportation

Myth: The Trump administration will conduct mass detention and deportation of millions of people within the interior of the United States.

Facts:

The Trump administration will likely carry out significant detentions and deportations.

But there are financial, legal, and logistical challenges to targeting millions of people in the interior of the United States for detention and deportation.

Data on Enforced Repatriations



Source: Migration Policy Institute, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/biden-deportation-record>



The Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP) sees a future where the United States welcomes individuals fleeing violence. ASAP members receive immigration resources, time-sensitive legal updates, and opportunities to ask questions to expert attorneys.

Visit this website to learn more about how to become an ASAP member:

asylumadvocacy.org/members



L'Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP) envisage un avenir dans lequel les États-Unis accueilleront les personnes fuyant la violence. Les membres d'ASAP reçoivent des ressources en matière d'immigration, des mises à jours rapides sur des questions juridiques, et l'opportunité de poser des questions à des avocats spécialistes.

Visitez notre site web pour en savoir plus sur la façon dont pour devenir un membre d'ASAP.

*Le site web est uniquement disponible en anglais.