



IMMIGRANT LEGAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project Advisory on President Trump's Immigration Executive Orders

February 10, 2017

President Trump has issued executive orders about immigration. These orders were issued quickly, causing confusion and anxiety. One order is now being challenged in the Federal courts. This advisory will give you a brief summary what we know right now and can advise.

I. The Order on Refugees and Immigrants from Muslim Countries: This order created a travel ban for refugees and others from some Muslim countries. The order is not in effect right now, because of a court-ordered Temporary Restraining Order (TRO). But the case is still in court and may go to the U.S. Supreme Court. If the Supreme Court finds that the travel ban was legal, it will go back into effect. It is also possible that the President will issue a new version of this order. This order:

- stops admitting refugees to the US for at least 120 days, except for some people who are religious minorities in their country;
- bans refugees, immigrants and visa holders from 7 countries (Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen) from entering the US for at least 90 days;
- stops processing and admitting refugees from Syria indefinitely; and
- cuts the total number of refugees who can come to the US each year by more than half, to 50,000.

Advice:

New executive orders or court decisions may be issued at any time. It is a good idea to keep up with the news as it develops, and to be sure you have reliable and accurate information before acting. For now:

- If you are from one of the 7 countries, you should not travel outside the U.S. until court cases on the travel ban are over, including all appeals. You don't want to risk having trouble getting back into the country.
- If you have a family member outside the U.S. who was subject to the travel ban, they should travel to the U.S. as soon as possible with their visa, in case there are changes in the temporary restraining order on the travel ban.

II. The Order on Enforcement and Deportation Priorities: This order expands the number of people who are likely to be subject to immigration enforcement actions and deportation. In the past, immigration enforcement (ICE) focused mostly on deporting people with serious criminal histories or immigration violations. Now, any person who is out of legal status may be subject to an enforcement action and deportation if they:

- have had any criminal history or interaction with the police, even if they were not arrested or convicted;
- entered the U.S. without inspection;
- have a final removal order;
- are suspected of fraud or willful misrepresentation in their immigration cases;
- have abused any government benefit program;
- pose a risk to public safety or national security.

This executive order on enforcement priorities is in effect now.

Advice:

New executive orders or court decisions may be issued at any time. There may be new and unexpected enforcement activities in workplaces or neighborhoods. It is a good idea to keep up with the news as it develops, and to be sure you have reliable and accurate information before acting. You can find updated information on ILAP's website www.ilapmaine.org. For now:

- If you are out of status, or have a deportation order or an "order of supervision, or if you have had any interactions with the courts or police regardless of your status, you should talk to an immigration lawyer. It may also be important for you and your family to take safety steps to be prepared for enforcement actions and to know your rights when interacting with enforcement personnel.
- If you qualify for legal status, you should apply with the help or advice of an immigration lawyer. Do not go to someone who is not a lawyer, because they may make a mistake that can cause you to get deported. If you have a pending case, your case should continue (although it may have delays). The immigration laws that allow you to apply for statuses like asylum, legal permanent residency, and citizenship can only be changed by Congress.
- You can find helpful information on your rights before Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and about safety planning on these websites: www.aclu.org, <http://www.immdefense.org>, and updates on changes in the immigration laws here: www.nilc.org.

If you have questions about how either of the executive orders may affect you or your family, please call ILAP to schedule an intake appointment: 780-1593 extension #100.

Visit our website www.ilapmaine.org to sign up for email updates, and for updated resources, information, and outreach events. Connect with us on Facebook and Twitter.