



IMMIGRANT LEGAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

February 24, 2017

To Our Friends and Clients:

Many people are worried about Immigration's **new plans for more enforcement actions**, including more arrests, detentions and deportations. There is much to worry about. These enforcement actions could affect millions of people in the U.S. and their families. ILAP will continue to monitor and explain new enforcement orders and actions and to advise and stand by those in Maine's immigrant communities who are affected by them.

**PLEASE REMEMBER:** The plans for more enforcement actions apply to all people who are in the United States without legal status (undocumented). They also apply to people who violate or lose their legal status by violating immigration rules or by having criminal convictions. The new enforcement plans do not apply to people who are in the U.S. in current legal status or who have pending applications (such as asylum) for status if they have not broken the law.

**IF YOU ARE IN THE U.S. WITHOUT STATUS AND WITHOUT A PENDING APPLICATION, WE RECOMMEND (see resource links on page 2):**

1. Meet with an immigration lawyer to see if you may have a path to legal status. The laws that allow an undocumented person to get into status have not changed and President Trump cannot change them. You should also meet with an immigration lawyer if you have arranged or paid to smuggle a child into the U.S. or if you have had any interaction with law enforcement, including if you are charged with a crime.
2. Learn about safety planning for people or family members who have no legal status. These simple steps are a good idea for undocumented people and have been recommended to them under all U.S. presidents. Safety planning helps people without status and their families to be ready in case someone is detained unexpectedly.
3. Learn about your rights if you are approached or detained by law enforcement. Some of these rights-such as the right to an attorney and the right to an interpreter and a court hearing-maybe very important. Law enforcement sometimes tries to enter homes, take documents, or pressure people to sign forms unlawfully or without providing interpreters. ICE may try to quickly deport people without a hearing (called expedited removal) that should not be deported that way. It is important to know what to do in those situations.
4. Keep information on basic immigration detention and deportation procedures including how to locate detained family members, how to ask for bond, voluntary departure, and other procedures. These procedures can be complicated and confusing. You may also wish to keep contact information for an immigration attorney or legal services organizations with you at all times.

5. Talk to an immigration lawyer if you are the victim of violence or any kind of crime, harassment or exploitation. Most local law enforcement in Maine and Maine courts want to protect victims of crime, regardless of their immigration status. There are also laws that allow some undocumented people who are victims of crime to get into legal status. These laws have not changed.

**IF YOU ARE IN THE U.S. WITH CURRENT LEGAL STATUS, OR A PENDING APPLICATION FOR STATUS, WE RECOMMEND:**

1. Meet with an immigration lawyer if you are charged with a crime, a civil violation, or with any violation of benefits rules. If you are charged with a crime and have a criminal lawyer, be sure your criminal lawyer understands how easily even minor charges can endanger your immigration status now and in the future.
2. You may wish to keep copies of the documents that show you are currently in legal status with you at all times.
3. Help friends or family members who are not currently in legal status to take the above steps.

**STAY INFORMED**

Visit ILAP's website for updates, resources, and information on our outreach events:  
<http://www.ilapmaine.org/immigration-updates.html>

Find national updates and resources through the National Immigration Law Center:  
<https://www.nilc.org/>

**Find Know-Your-Rights and Safety Planning information here:**

Immigrant Legal Resource Center:  
[www.ilrc.org/know-your-rights-and-what-immigrant-families-should-do-now](http://www.ilrc.org/know-your-rights-and-what-immigrant-families-should-do-now)

ACLU: [www.aclu.org/know-your-rights](http://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights)

Immigrant Defense Project: [www.immdefense.org/ice-home-and-community-arrests/](http://www.immdefense.org/ice-home-and-community-arrests/)

**If you know someone who is detained by ICE, find where they are being held here:**

<http://locator.ice.gov/odls/homePage.do>

**CONTACT ILAP AT 780-1593, EXT. #100 FOR AN INTAKE APPOINTMENT OR TO SCHEDULE AN OUTREACH EVENT WITH YOUR COMMUNITY.**