

Raids & Enforcement: 9 Ways to Protect Yourself

1. Learn about your rights in an enforcement situation.



- If officers are at your door, keep the door closed and ask if they are Immigration agents, or from ICE. Ask the agents what they are there for.
- Opening the door does not give the agents permission to come inside, but it is safer to speak to ICE through the door.
- If the agents don't speak your language, ask for an interpreter.



- If the agents want to enter, ask them if they have a warrant signed by a judge. If ICE agents do not have a warrant signed by a Judge, you may refuse to open the door or let them in. An administrative warrant of removal from immigration authorities is not enough.
- If they say they have a warrant, ask them to slip the warrant under the door.



- Look at the top and at the signature line to see if it was issued by a court and signed by a judge. Only a court/judge warrant is enough for entry into your premises. One issued by DHS or ICE and signed by a DHS or ICE employee is not.
- Do not open your door unless ICE shows you a judicial search or arrest warrant *naming a person in your residence and/or areas to be searched at your address.*
- In all other cases, keep the door closed. State: "I do not consent to your entry."



- If agents force their way in anyway, do not attempt to resist.
- If you wish to exercise your rights, state: **"I do not consent to your entry or to your search of these premises. I am exercising my right to remain silent. I wish to speak with a lawyer as soon as possible."**
- Everyone in the residence may also exercise the right to remain silent.



- Do not lie or show false documents.
- Do not sign any papers without speaking to a lawyer.

2. Organize your family's documents and points of contact. Gather identification documents, and documents related to any interactions with immigration officials, law enforcement, or courts of law. Make copies of these documents and confirm that family members or trusted friends have access to them. Memorize or carry the phone number of a person you trust and, if applicable, your legal representative. Make sure your children also carry a trusted person's contact number.

If your child was born in the U.S. apply for their U.S. Passport. Hartford Public Library's Downtown Branch accepts U.S. Passport Applications

3. Register with your local consulate.

4. Register and begin to attend your local church, parish, or other religious or community center. Join a solidarity or support group if possible.

5. Make a family plan. Think through what your family will do in the event a family member is arrested or detained. Decide in advance who will take care of your children in an emergency.

6. Know your parental rights. Do you have children under the age of 18? Make yourself aware of your rights as a parent if you are detained.

In the United States, a child's right to free public education is protected by **Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982)**, which holds that a State may not deny access to a free public education to any child residing in the State, whether present in the United States as a documented immigrant or otherwise. This legal precedent covers all children and youth between ages of 5 and 21 who have not yet received a high school diploma.

7. Set up a family and friends contact chain. Determine who in your circle of family and friends will be called first in the event that you or a family member is apprehended.

8. Stay informed and connected! Visit your neighborhood library. Library staff will help you navigate online resources for the latest immigration policy and advocacy updates and provide you with reliable referrals to community services at no cost.

Hartford Public Library serves ALL community members irrespective of immigration status, religious affiliation, and ethnic background.

9. If you are a Legal Permanent Resident (Green Card holder) find out if you qualify for Citizenship. Visit Hartford Public Library's *The American Place* for more information and free legal help with your Citizenship application.

The American Place (TAP) is a free program of the Library designed to welcome immigrants and ease their transition into their new home city. The program promotes Hartford's shared civic values and its vibrant cultural multiplicity

*Information sources for this document include *Justice for Immigrants* and *ACLU*.



The American Place
500 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103
www.hplct.org (860) 695-6334
learning@hplct.org

