

SAFETY PLANNING

A Guide for Families to Prepare for Immigration Enforcement Arrests and Detentions

SAFETY TIPS

- Memorize your immigration number (A number).
- Avoid visiting jails and prisons.
 - Immigration officials can make agreements with local and state police to be in jails and prisons to identify non-U.S. citizens.
- Avoid public areas that are dangerous or known to locals as a place where non-U.S. citizens gather.
 - It is easier for police to arrest you if you are in a public area, compared to when you are in a home.
- Inform your household of their rights
 - Let your family, children, and people living in your home know their rights. Share [Know-Your-Rights resources](#) with them.
 - Use the Immigrant Children Resource Center: <https://ucresourcecenter.org/legal-immigration/>

MEDICAL NEEDS

- If you have a medical condition, make and carry a card with you at all times that lists your medical condition and medications with names and dosages.
- Let a trusted person know about your medical condition and what you need for medical care.
- Consider signing a HIPAA form, giving them permission to access your medical records, to pick up prescriptions, and to talk to your doctor about your medical needs.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

- Let a trusted U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident adult know your bank account information or where your money is kept. This will help ensure that your finances are in order if you are detained or deported. Without a plan, you could get behind on bills, rent, and school fees. Your children and family will need money to stay in their home and buy food.
- You can give the trusted person special power of attorney in writing, so that they can make financial decisions for you. This allows them to pay bills, deposit checks, and pay your bond.
- Make sure your children and family have an emergency fund.

CHILDCARE

- Ask a trusted U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident adult to be your children's backup guardian if you are detained or deported. Make sure you have paperwork noting this decision. Every state has different laws on guardianship or power of attorney, which may require filing with the state office or family court.
- Give the trusted person information about your children's school, medical conditions, and other emergency contact numbers.
- Share the plan with your children. Make sure they have emergency numbers and know who to contact.

KEEP RECORDS SAFE

- In a safe place, keep every original copy of your immigration papers, including visas, applications, receipts, notices, passports, and work authorization.
- Keep a copy on your phone.
- If you have a pending immigration case, such as asylum, prepare and update your evidence.
- Keep every original copy of traffic citations, traffic tickets, receipts of payment, court documents, and criminal history records. If you don't have them, request them from the county, state, or court.
- Let your family, attorney, and other people you trust know where these records are located.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

- Memorize or keep a copy of your attorney's phone number and email.
- If you don't have an attorney, memorize or keep a copy of a law firm or nonprofit legal aid's phone number.
- Share this information with your children, family, and other people you trust.
- Have a list of phone numbers and addresses of the nearest immigration detention centers, police station, jail, and prison. Share this list with your trusted contacts and family.

If you have any questions, please contact: policy@refugees.org. Emailing to this address does not ensure confidentiality. If you need legal advice, please contact a lawyer or go to: <https://refugees.org/legal-services>.