Ways that ICE pretends to be local police

When Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents go to homes or in the community to arrest non-citizens, they often tell lies or “ruses” about who they are and what they are doing. ICE agents use ruses to get into homes without judicial warrants, to obtain information, or to arrest people outside of their homes. A common ICE ruse is that agents pretend they are local law enforcement. ICE agents will say they are “police” and purposefully not identify themselves as ICE agents. This can be confusing as they are often dressed in plain-clothes or in uniforms that do not indicate that they are ICE. ICE police ruses can also happen over the phone.

Ruse (In Person)

**General Investigation Ruse**

“We are conducting an investigation and want to ask some questions.”

**Criminal Investigation Ruse**

“We are investigating a crime, can we ask you a few questions?”

**Identity Theft Ruse**

“Your son is the victim of identity theft, and we need to talk to him.”

**Photo Ruse**

“Have you seen this suspect?”

Ruse (By Phone)

**Lost ID Ruse**

“We found a lost ID.”

**You’re a Suspect Ruse**

“We’re investigating a crime and you are a suspect.”

Goal

- Identify
- Arrest
- Detain
- Deport

For more information on ICE ruses and raids and for IDP’s Know Your Rights materials, go to immdefense.org/raids
To report a raid where ICE has used a ruse, contact IDP’s hotline at 212-725-6422  (c) Immigrant Defense Project 2020