

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.

“POLICE, open up”
“I’m Detective [name]”
“We are the warrant squad”
“We are from the XYZ precinct”
“I’m calling from [local court name] to confirm your address”
“I’m calling from the District Attorney’s office”
“We are looking for X, who is a victim of identity theft”

Ruse (In Person)



“Can we come inside?”

“Can you come outside?”

Ruse (By Phone)



“Can we come to you?”

“Can you come to us?”

Goal

