



FAMILY ATTORNEYS, PROTECT IMMIGRANT CLIENTS FROM ICE IN THE COURTS!

Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) are federal agencies that send officers to detain and deport “removable” people in the community, including at courthouses. This practice of arresting immigrants in courthouses undermines equal access to justice and can interfere with clients’ ability to resolve civil and criminal matters.

WHERE DO ICE AGENTS MAKE ARRESTS IN THE COURTS?

ICE officers have arrested unsuspecting people in courtrooms, vestibules, waiting areas, hallways and just outside of courthouses. ICE has come more frequently to criminal courts but, since November 2016, ICE has also made arrests in family courts.

ARE ICE AGENTS EASILY IDENTIFIABLE WHEN THEY COME TO COURT?

ICE agents may wear uniforms, but they often appear in plainclothes and come in groups of 2-4 (sometimes more).

DOES ICE USUALLY TARGET SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS TO ARREST?

ICE usually identifies a specific individual appearing for a court date and has an “administrative warrant” signed by a supervisor, not a judge. This allows the agents to detain the person upon confirmation that s/he is the individual named in the document.

WHO IS AT RISK OF BEING TARGETED AND ARRESTED BY ICE?

People who are undocumented and people with lawful status with certain criminal convictions may be at risk of being detained and deported. For more details see IDP’s advisory on the January 2017 Executive Order priorities: <http://bit.ly/2ohuSjn>.

TIPS ON PROTECTING IMMIGRANT CLIENTS IN THE COURTHOUSE

1. **Identify clients who are not U.S. citizens (USCs)** and have them call ActionNYC at 800-354-0365 for **screening about their status** and risk of deportation. Assigned counsel in NYC: contact IDP at immdefense.org/psc for a **free consult**. Other NYS appointed counsel: contact your Regional Immigration Assistance Center at on.ny.gov/2o162kA. Others: contact a local immigration expert.
2. **For clients at risk of deportation**, on court dates, ask them to meet you away from the courtroom (e.g. on another floor or in your office). **Communicate by text** to see if your client has arrived. Try to **avoid calling their names aloud** in the hallways. ICE may use this to identify and detain clients before they appear on the case. **Minimize the number of court dates**, when possible. If this is not possible, request that your client be excused from court appearances. **Check which parties’ names appear on calendar** before advising about risks.
3. **Avoid talking about client’s immigration status on the record**. Creating a record of your client’s immigration status can hurt them in immigration court. If necessary, ask to discuss immigration issues off the record.
4. **Warn clients about the risks of arrest and incarceration**. Arrest and incarceration, for any reason, can put your client on ICE’s radar. Warn clients who are deportable that contact with the criminal justice system can put them at risk of being picked up by ICE.
5. **Make an emergency plan**. If your client is at risk of deportation, help them to prepare their family for the possibility of separation by gathering emergency contacts and discussing who could care for their children. Find resources at: immdefense.org/emergency-preparedness.



FAMILY ATTORNEYS, PROTECT IMMIGRANT CLIENTS FROM ICE IN THE COURTS!

IF YOU WITNESS ICE AGENTS ARRESTING YOUR CLIENT

- **Invoke your client's rights.** Identify yourself as the person's lawyer. Tell ICE not to question your client. Tell your client not to sign anything and to exercise his/her right to remain silent. Answering questions will only help ICE deport him/her. **Request to call or recall the case while your client is present to avoid the issuance of a warrant.**
- **Get info from ICE.** Ask for agents' names and contact info. Ask for the basis of the arrest and to see a warrant (note if signed by a judge vs. ICE supervisor). Ask where they are taking your client.
- **Get on the record.** Explaining the situation may prevent a bench warrant and possibly help in immigration court.
- **Report it** to advocates pushing back against this practice. In NYC, contact IDP at 212-725-6422 if you see ICE in or around a courthouse.

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR CLIENT AFTER THE ARREST?

- **ICE makes a custody determination.** ICE agents will decide whether to detain your client in an immigration jail or release your client under an order of supervision.
- **Some but not all clients are entitled to a hearing before an Immigration Judge** where they may argue against their deportation and apply for various waivers of deportation. It can take 1-2 months before they have their first court date and the case can last months to years depending on whether they remain detained. There is no right to assigned counsel in these proceedings. However, in NYC, indigent immigrants who are detained may be eligible for a free attorney through the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project (NYIFUP).
- **Detained immigrants have the right to participate in their Family Court hearings.** Under an ICE policy called the Parental Interests Directive, immigration detention is not supposed to prevent Family Court participation. For more info, see: ice.gov/parental-interest.

HOW TO HELP A CLIENT IN DETENTION

- **Locate your client** by using the ICE Detainee Locator at locator.ice.gov. You will need the full name, date of birth, and country of origin, or, your client's "alien" number, which appears on work permits and green cards. In NYC, most immigrants are detained in New Jersey or Orange County, NY.
- **Talk to the deportation officer.** Your client will be assigned a deportation officer who is responsible for managing your client's case. **Under the Parental Interests Directive, the deportation officer is required to facilitate your client's participation in Family Court hearings,** court-ordered visitation with children and access to other court-ordered services. To locate the deportation officer in NYC, call (212) 264-4213 with your client's name, "alien" number (if available) and date of birth. Outside of NYC, see ice.gov/contact/ero.
- **Help your client maintain contact with their family.** Maintaining contact with children and other family members is essential and could help your client's Family Court case. Ask the court to order the Child Protective Services agency to facilitate visitation with children at the detention facility.
- **Every detention facility permits visits from family and friends.** People who do not have lawful immigration status should consult an immigration attorney before going to a detention facility.