Employer Quick Guide: Responding to ICE Visits & Audits

1. Stay Calm & Organized

- Designate a trained Point of Contact (POC)
- Keep legal counsel on call
- Maintain an updated I-9 compliance binder

2. Know the Types of ICE Actions

- Notice of Inspection (NOI): 3 business days to comply
- Worksite Raid: Unannounced entry
- Subpoena/Warrant: Access to records or premises

3. Verify ICE Authority

- Ask for ID and purpose
- Request copy of warrant/subpoena
- Administrative warrant does not grant private access
- Judicial warrant signed by a judge allows entry

4. Protect Employee Rights

- No questioning without legal presence unless required
- Provide only legally required information
- Employees can remain silent & request attorney

5. Document Everything

- Log interactions with names & badge numbers
- Copy all requests & records
- Note date, time, and scope

6. Follow Up

- Notify immigration attorney immediately
- Review compliance gaps
- Correct I-9 errors properly (never backdate)
- Prepare for follow-up visits

Key Legal Tip

- No retaliation for asserting rights
- Do not knowingly hire unauthorized workers

Sources

- ICE: Worksite Enforcement Overview (ice.gov)
- USCIS: Handbook for Employers M-274 (uscis.gov)
- NILC: How to Respond to Immigration Enforcement (nilc.org)

For assistance with workplace investigations, contact Kathie Allen, Licensed Private Investigator #27033, Allen Morris Workplace Investigations, LLC,