



Family Planning Toolkit For Mixed-Status Families v1.1

Forward Latino understands the impact family separation can have on all members of the family. As such, we have put together this toolkit to ensure that individuals in mixed-status families are prepared should forced family separation occur. Please note it is essential that these steps be taken in advance to ensure ample time to prepare with an ethical immigration attorney licensed to practice law in the United States. If you have any questions, please contact our national office at (833)LAT-INO1.

- 1. Understand Your Rights**
 - Familiarize yourself with your legal rights and the deportation process.
 - Know that if detained, you have the right to remain silent, the right to an attorney, and the right to refuse to sign any documents without legal counsel.
- 2. Consult an Immigration Lawyer in Advance**
 - Seek advice from a qualified immigration attorney who can guide you through your options and represent you in court if necessary.
 - Schedule an initial consultation to discuss your case and get an overview of potential legal strategies.
 - Keep their phone number with you at all times.
- 3. Gather Important Documents**
 - Collect all relevant documents, including your visa, passport, green card, birth certificate, work permits, and any other immigration papers.
 - Keep copies of all your documents in a safe place and provide copies to your attorney.
- 4. Establish Power of Attorney**
 - Designate a trusted person to act as your power of attorney, allowing them to make legal decisions on your behalf if you are detained or deported.
 - Ensure the power of attorney document is legally binding and includes specific instructions regarding your finances, property, and care of dependents.
- 5. Stay Informed**
 - Keep up-to-date with any changes in immigration laws and policies that may affect your status. Follow reliable news sources and legal advisories.
 - Join local immigrant support organizations such as Forward Latino for the latest updates and resources.
- 6. Avoid Criminal Activity**
 - Adhere to all laws to avoid any actions that could lead to deportation. Even minor offenses can have serious immigration consequences.
 - Consult with an attorney before accepting any plea deals or engaging in legal agreements that might impact your immigration status.
- 7. Report to ICE if Detained**
 - If detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), report your detention to your lawyer and family immediately.
 - Know your A-number (Alien Registration Number) and provide it to your legal representative.
- 8. Prepare for Court Hearings**
 - Attend all scheduled court hearings and bring all necessary documents and evidence to support your case.
 - Work closely with your attorney to prepare your defense and understand the procedures.
- 9. Explore Legal Options**
 - Investigate options such as asylum, adjustment of status, cancellation of removal, or voluntary departure if applicable to your situation.
 - Your attorney can help you understand which options may be available to you based on your specific circumstances.

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10. Contact Support Organizations

- Reach out to local immigrant support organizations for assistance, resources, and legal support. Organizations like the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) can provide valuable help.

11. Stay Connected with Family

- Keep your family informed about your situation and have a plan in place for your dependents. Ensure they know how to contact your attorney and provide them with copies of important documents.

12. Seek Mental Health Support

- Deportation concerns can be stressful. Consider seeking support from a mental health professional who understands the unique challenges faced by immigrants.
- Look for community resources that offer counseling services for immigrants.

13. Plan Financially

- Ensure you have access to funds to cover legal fees, fines, and other expenses related to your case. Consider setting up a separate savings account for these purposes.
- Work with your power of attorney to manage your financial affairs if you are detained.

14. Know Emergency Contacts

- Have a list of emergency contacts, including your lawyer, family members, and local support organizations. Keep this list accessible to family members and trusted friends.
- Ensure your family knows who to contact and what to do in case of your detention or deportation.

15. Stay Calm and Compliant

- Remain calm and follow the legal process to the best of your ability. Your composure and cooperation can positively impact your case.
- Keep detailed records of all interactions with immigration officials and any legal proceedings related to your case.

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