

How CBF's Immigration Injunction Protects Your Church

Church Policy and Procedures



One goal of the “How CBF’s Immigration Injunction Protects Your Church” resources is to jumpstart conversations within churches about how to prepare for an event that we hope never happens—a visit from ICE officers.

This resource focuses on written policies and procedures for the church. For Baptists, there is not a standard, or a one-size-fits-all format for church procedures. Some congregations have very detailed policies and procedures that might have multiple subpoints for clarification. Others may only have the outlines of a policy written down. Many churches are somewhere in between.

A church policy on interacting with immigration officers should, at a minimum, answer these questions:

- Who at the church is authorized to speak with immigration officers?
- What training will these authorized responders or the larger congregation undergo?
- When should an attorney be brought in?
- Where can a copy of CBF’s injunction be found?
- Why are immigrants vital members of our faith communities?

Some CBF partner congregations have already created a written policy or guidance for their use and have given permission for us to share it with the larger Fellowship. Whether you take inspiration from one of these or start from scratch, please have an attorney licensed to practice law in your state review it. There are nuances and differences between how the federal and state systems operate as well as numerous nuances between the states.

First on Fifth Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., created two versions of its policy. The full policy is intended for staff, lay leadership and those who may be called upon to interact with immigration officers. It gives detailed information including a resource page which you may also find helpful. For those in the church who need to know the outlines of the plan but not necessarily the details, they also created a condensed version that was shared with the entire congregation. This ensures that the entire congregation is on the same page and knows that the church is as prepared as possible for a visit from immigration officers.

[*Read the full policy here.*](#)

[*Read the condensed policy here.*](#)

A CBF partner church in Virginia found a helpful resource from a local Disciples of Christ ministry which they used as a guide for their staff and volunteers.

[*Read the Disciples of Christ resource here.*](#)

If a formal policy is not right for your congregation, try this approach from University Baptist in Austin, Texas. They created a two-page flyer to post on a window. One side is externally facing while the other side (facing inside) is a quick guide on what to do if you see immigration officers coming. This approach ensures that the information is easily accessible when it is most needed. UBC used the back of a welcoming poster they were already using, but you could easily add the information to the back of the CBF poster ([English](#) or [Spanish](#)) or any other flyer the church has posted near external doors.

[*View the two-page flyer here.*](#)