



ICE Detention Contingency Plan Framework for Church Communities

October 8, 2025

Immediate Actions

Know Your Rights

- Share “Know Your Rights” materials widely with members and families (*available at the [CBF Advocacy Resources for Immigrants webpage](#)*)
- Remind the detained person and their family:
 - Do not give false information or resist arrest.
 - Exercise the right to remain silent beyond stating name; avoid sharing DOB or address unless advised.
 - Do not sign any documents without legal advice.
 - Request to speak to a lawyer immediately.
- Encourage carrying a small “Know Your Rights” card (Red Cards) with essential contacts and instructions (*available at the [CBF Advocacy Resources for Immigrants webpage](#)*)

Notify Trusted Contacts

- Inform family, close friends, and church leadership immediately after detention.
- Ensure legal counsel is contacted as soon as possible.
- If represented, provide ICE with a signed [G-28 form](#) to notify the attorney.

Family Preparedness & Support

Emergency Preparedness Plan (*available in the [CBF Advocacy Resources for Immigrants webpage](#)*)

- Encourage families to maintain an updated plan with:
 - Emergency contacts (family, legal, church).
 - Copies of important documents safely accessible to trusted persons.
 - Signed powers of attorney to authorize care for dependents if necessary.
- Help families track and record the individual’s 9-digit Alien Number (A-Number).
- Encourage preparation of a small emergency fund for legal fees, bonds, or immediate needs.

Legal Assistance

- Refer families to trusted immigration attorneys or organizations.
- Use the [National Immigration Legal Services Directory](#) to search for verified immigration legal service providers by location.
- California: Call the National Immigration Detention Hotline
 - 1-209-757-3733 (Monday–Friday, 12:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. PST).

- From inside detention: dial 9233# (8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. PST).
- Texas: Call the Immigration Legal Resource Hotline
 - 1-833-HOU-IMMI (1-833-468-4664) Lunes a viernes, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Locating the Detained Person

- Use [ICE's Detainee Locator](#) system to find where the individual is being held.
- Document date, time, location, and officers' names during the arrest and subsequent interactions.

Ongoing Support

Pastoral Care & Mental Health

- Provide emotional, spiritual, and practical support to the detained person's family.
- Facilitate pastoral check-ins and support groups geared toward impacted families.
- Partner with mental health counselors experienced in immigration-related trauma.
- Share practical caregiver tools, such as [Traumatic Separation and Refugee and Immigrant Children: Tips for Current Caregivers \(NCTSN\)](#), to help families care for children experiencing stress or trauma.

Legal and Advocacy Relationships

- Develop ongoing relationships with trusted local immigration attorneys and organizations.
- Connect families to immigrant rights hotlines.
- Maintain constructive and professional connections with local law enforcement, ICE, and CBP to help navigate the process where possible.
- Encourage church community participation in advocacy, including transportation to court, housing support, and assistance with food or childcare.

Communication and Documentation

- Advise families to keep detailed records of all communications and steps taken after detention.
- Emphasize calm, respectful communication with authorities and avoid unnecessary sharing of information or signing paperwork without legal counsel.