

# Safety, Rights, and Options During Immigration Enforcement Encounters

Recent immigration enforcement activity has created fear and uncertainty for many individuals and families. We recognize that these situations can be stressful and may raise concerns about safety, communication, and decision-making.

This document is intended to share **general information and options** related to immigration enforcement encounters. It is not legal advice. Every situation is different, and individuals may make different choices depending on what feels safest at the time.

Individuals with disabilities may experience additional challenges during stressful interactions. DSPs support priorities may include:

- Reducing confusion or distress
- Communicating disability-related or communication needs when helpful
- Prioritizing physical and emotional safety

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## Before an encounter

- Consider discussing and creating a safety plan for yourself and/or your client of what to do if an incident occurs. Contact your support manager if you would like a protocol added to the client's care documents.
- Provide an emergency contact or contacts to your support manager or the office – emergency contacts can be added for both DSPs and clients.
- Keep important phone numbers or resources handy (such as your support manager, DSP and/or client emergency contacts, [red card with rights](#), etc.).
- Consider requesting a client identification card if client and family want one to be used during an incident (see below).
  - DSPs can also request an official FRR employee badge.
- Look into/involve local community groups and resources, if wanted.
- Contact your support manager or the office if you have any questions or need support.
  - [Office@familyreliefresources.com](mailto:Office@familyreliefresources.com) (English)

## Client Identification or Information Card

Some clients or families find it helpful to use a **client identification or information card** that can be shared during stressful situations.

These cards can be created based on individual needs and may include:

- The client's name

- A brief statement regarding disability or communication needs
- Information indicating the person may have difficulty answering questions
- An emergency contact name and phone number

These cards can support communication and help reduce confusion. If a client or family feels this would be helpful, please contact your support manager or the office. Keep in mind HIPAA requirements and do not share confidential client information – see “During an Encounter.”

## During an encounter

### General Rights

Individuals have basic rights in any situation when approached by immigration officers.

In general:

- You have the right to remain silent.
- You are not required to answer questions about immigration status, place of birth, or citizenship.
- You have the right to ask for identification and purpose of the person stopping you.
  - Example: “Why am I being stopped? What is your name and role? What is your badge number?”
- You may ask to speak with a lawyer.
- You are not required to sign documents you do not understand.

Resource: Click here to download a [printable card summarizing your rights](#). Contact [office@familyreliefresources.com](mailto:office@familyreliefresources.com) if you would like to request a copy mailed to you. You can also find it at the bottom of the document.

In some situations, asserting rights may increase stress or tension. Individuals should use their own judgment about what feels safest. Some people choose to focus on minimizing stress and ending the interaction quickly.

This may include:

- Keeping responses brief or neutral
- Avoiding confrontation
- Complying in order to reduce tension
- Limiting engagement when possible

What *not* to do

- Don't run, resist, or physically interfere.
- Don't present false documents or false information.
- Don't sign anything you don't understand.

During any encounter, if possible, and if it feels safe, individuals may find it helpful to remember or note:

- The time and location
- Names or badge numbers, if visible

If safe to do so, some individuals choose to take photos or videos, as documentation may be helpful later. Personal safety should always come first.

## **Encounters in Homes**

General information:

- Immigration enforcement requires a **judicial warrant signed by a judge** to enter a private home.
- Other documents may not authorize entry, even if they look similar to a judicial warrant. An ICE administrative warrant (often Form I-200 or I-205) does **not** give the right to enter private spaces or demand cooperation.
- DSPs should not allow anyone entry to a client's home without permission from the owner of the house, unless a valid warrant is presented.
- Notify parent if an officer is at the door, if parent is home. If parent is not home, attempt to contact the parent or emergency contact (if provided) via phone.

Individuals may choose to:

- Not open the door
- Not answer questions
- Ask to see a warrant without opening the door, such as asking them to slide it under the door or hold it up to a window
- Ask to see officer identification and/or ask for officer badge number

No one is expected to interpret legal documents, provide legal advice, or act as a legal representative. Individuals are not required to answer questions on behalf of another person.

If they enter the home without consent and without presenting a valid warrant, state, "I do not consent to you entering this home, please leave immediately. I do not consent to a search, please stop and leave immediately."

Call Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition (PIRC) for rapid response 1-888-622-1510.

More info about PIRC and what to do in an ICE encounter: <https://pircoregon.org/about/what-to-do-if-you-see-ice>

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## **Encounters in Public Places**

In public spaces, individuals have the right and may choose to:

- Ask if you are being detained, and leave calmly if permitted.
- Disengage from the interaction when possible.
- Refuse to provide information about HIPAA-protected client information, including name, status, and address.
- Stay with your client if possible.
- Focus on de-escalation and reassurance if your client becomes distressed.
- Refuse consent to searches of your person, belongings, vehicle, or home/workplace unless they have a valid warrant.

### **If a DSP, Client, or Parent Is Detained During a Shift**

If a detention occurs during a shift, prioritize safety and continuity of care.

#### **If a DSP is detained:**

- Inform the officer that you are the caregiver for a client who requires supervision.
- Request permission to contact the client's emergency contact so that care can be transferred.
- If possible, contact your own emergency contact.

Suggested statement:

"I am the caregiver for this client, they have a disability and cannot be left alone. Leaving them unattended would put them at immediate risk. I need to call their emergency contact immediately."

#### **If a client or parent/guardian is detained:**

- Contact the client's emergency contact immediately.
- If an emergency contact cannot be reached, notify your support manager or the office for assistance.

#### **If time is limited or you are unable to make several calls:**

- Notify the FRR office as soon as possible.
- You may also contact the Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition (PIRC) Rapid Response line at 1-888-622-1510. If available, provide the detained person's full legal name, date of birth, country of birth, and A-number (if known), or any identifying information you have.
  - PIRC verifies ICE activity and may send trained legal observers or community witnesses to document encounters. Their presence can help ensure accurate documentation and support rapid response efforts.

Document what you can remember once you are safe.

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## After an encounter

After an encounter:

- Follow safety plan or any protocols if previously established with client.
- Stress reactions such as fear, anger, or anxiety are common following difficult interactions. Consider reaching out to a trusted person or contacting your manager if you need time off or support.
- Legal or community resources may be helpful – see “Resources.”
- Contact DSP or client emergency contacts, if available. If unavailable, contact the support manager or office to verify if there are any emergency contacts that they can reach out to.

If an encounter occurs during a work shift:

- Notify a supervisor or HR as soon as possible.
- FRR does not retaliate against employees for prioritizing safety or exercising their rights.
- Support or accommodations may be available following stressful situations.

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## Final Note

This information is provided for general awareness and does not replace legal advice. Laws and enforcement practices may change.

FRR is committed to supporting safety, dignity, and clear communication for employees and clients.

Helpful resources:

- <https://pircoregon.org/about/what-to-do-if-you-see-ice>
- <https://www.oregonforall.us/tools>
- WE HAVE RIGHTS: Inside Our Homes video:  
[https://youtu.be/X\\_tLoRdoECM?si=ijjplw7s\\_L\\_NvPl6](https://youtu.be/X_tLoRdoECM?si=ijjplw7s_L_NvPl6)
- <https://innovationlawlab.org/resource/preparing-ice-encounters-know-your-rights-responses-and-recourses>
- KYR when going to Immigration Court:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/15IM4qQRpfoGofHeUJiIx0fKQBLpBBKQ5/edit>