PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROTOCOL IN THE EVENT OF IMMIGRATION DETENTION

IMPORTANT: The purpose of this protocol is to help a person stay safe and protect their rights in the event of an encounter with immigration agents. It does not replace the advice of an attorney. Every situation is different.

1. MEMORIZE AT LEAST ONE PHONE NUMBER

Memorize the phone number of someone you trust who can answer immediately and contact an attorney.

2.HAVE ALTERNATIVE ATTORNEY PHONE NUMBERS

Make sure your family has access to attorneys' phone numbers. If you already have an attorney handling your case, also consider having contact information for alternative attorneys.

3.HAVE IMPORTANT INFORMATION PREPARED

Share the following information with your family so they have alternatives for locating you if you are detained:

- Full name.
- Date of birth.
- Country of birth.
- A-Number, if you have one.
- Name and phone number of your attorney.
- Information about any pending immigration cases.

If a person is detained, their family can use the ICE Online Detainee Locator System (https://locator.ice.gov/odls/#/search) to try to locate them. ICE indicates that the system allows searches by A-Number or biographical information, although there may be a delay before a person appears in the system.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER IMMIGRATION AGENTS

4.STAY CALM

Do not run, yell, insult the agents, or attempt to escape. Keep your hands visible and follow the agents' physical instructions while avoiding confrontations. Not physically resisting does NOT mean giving up your rights. Authorities also recommend not resisting or attempting to flee during an encounter with ICE.

5.DO NOT BE AGGRESSIVE OR CONFRONT THE AGENTS

If you have an immigration case, do not discuss your case with ICE agents. Use simple phrases such as "I want to remain silent." "May I make a phone call?" "I do not want to sign any documents without speaking to my attorney first."

6.DO NOT VOLUNTARILY PROVIDE INFORMATION

Do not take the initiative to provide explanations about your immigration status, how you entered the country, when you entered, how long you have been here, or your immigration history. Do not voluntarily hand over your ID unless they ask you to do so.

IMPORTANT:
Remaining silent does NOT mean lying.
Never provide false information or present false documents. This can have additional consequences.

7.DO NOT SIGN DOCUMENTS WITHOUT SPEAKING TO AN ATTORNEY

If agents present documents for you to sign, DO NOT SIGN THEM simply because they tell you that you must.
You can say: “I do not want to sign any documents until I speak with my attorney.” It is especially important not to sign documents related to:

- Voluntary departure.
- Waiver of rights.
- Deportation/removal.
- Immigration agreements.
- Other documents that could affect your right to remain in the United States.

8.IF SOMEONE IS RECORDING YOU WITH THE INTENTION OF HELPING

If you see someone recording and it is safe to do so, and you can tell that the person is trying to help you, keep your face visible. If possible, look toward the camera without interfering with the agents. This may help your family identify you.

9.ASK TO MAKE A PHONE CALL

When you are told that you are being detained or that you will be transferred, calmly ask to make a phone call. If you are not allowed to make the call at that time, do not argue or resist. Try asking again to make the call when you arrive at the detention center.

10. ASK TO MAKE A PHONE CALL AT THE DETENTION CENTER

Once you are inside the detention center, say: “I need to make a call to my attorney/family.”
ICE telephone-access rules provide for calls related to legal representation and certain family or emergency calls. Specific procedures may vary depending on the detention facility.
PRIORITY OF PHONE CALLS

FIRST: Contact your attorney or a trusted person who can contact your attorney.
SECOND: Inform your family that you have been detained.
THIRD: Provide the information they need to locate you.

11. INFORMATION YOU SHOULD PROVIDE TO YOUR FAMILY DURING THE CALL

Try to provide:

1. Your full name.
2. Your date of birth.
3. You’re a-Number, if you know it.
4. The name of the detention center where you are being held.
5. The city/state where it is located.
6. Your attorney’s name.
7. Any identification number you have been given.
8. Information about any documents you have been given.

9. Whether you have a pending hearing.
10. Any information about your transfer. Your family can use this information to locate you and begin communicating with your attorney.

MAIN RULE: DO NOT MAKE IMPORTANT DECISIONS WITHOUT LEGAL ADVICE

WHILE YOU ARE DETAINED:

DO NOT:

- Sign documents you do not understand.
- Sign for voluntary departure without speaking to an attorney.
- Waive your rights without understanding the consequences.
- Provide false information.
- Use false documents.
- Argue with or physically resist agents.

DO:

- Stay calm.
- Remain silent when appropriate.
- Ask to speak with an attorney.
- Ask for an interpreter if you do not understand what you are being told.
- Ask for copies of any documents you are given, when possible.
- Communicate with your family.
- Provide your family with the information they need to locate you.