

6 Things to Do if You're Detained by ICE in North Carolina

When it comes to dealing with Immigration Customs Enforcement officers, it's better to be safe than sorry. Being prepared will help you stay calm throughout the process. Below are our tips for how to prepare and what to do in the event that you're detained by ICE in North Carolina.

1 Start getting organized now.

Make copies of these documents:

- Birth Certificates (including children)
- Passports (including children)
- Marriage Certificate
- County Criminal Record (certified copy)

Collect evidence that shows how long you have been in the US:

- Tax Records
- Bills
- School Records
- Paychecks
- Medical Records
- Paystubs
- Leases

Gather evidence of anything else you may want immigration to know:

- Your children get good grades in school or play sports
- You, your spouse, or children suffer from some illness or medical condition
- You are the only means of economic support for your family



Ask friends, family members, coworkers, neighbors, and bosses to write you a letter of recommendation and good character.



Gather any documents that you have ever received from an immigration official, immigration agency or immigration court.



Make copies of all of these documents and put them in a safe place.

You Have Constitutional Rights

- ▶ Do not open the door for an ICE agent unless they have a valid warrant.
- ▶ You have the right to remain silent, but let the ICE agent know you're exercising your rights.
- ▶ If you're at work, ask the agent if you're free to go. If they say yes, then leave.
- ▶ You have the right to an attorney. Let the agent know you want to talk to your attorney.

Give this card to the ICE agent to let him know you're exercising your rights.

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(877) 978-3218
www.dummitfradin.com



Designate a trusted friend or family member that will be the person you call immediately after being detained by ICE.

- They should know where all your documents are and be able to access them.
- They should bring them to an attorney as soon as you are detained.
- They will be responsible for contacting an attorney and hiring them to help you in your immigration case.
- You should make financial arrangements for the person to hire an attorney to help you.

**To: Immigration or
Other Officer**

Right now I am choosing to exercise my legal rights.

- ▶ I will remain silent, and I refuse to answer your questions.
- ▶ If I am detained, I have the right to contact an attorney immediately.
- ▶ I refuse to sign anything without advice from an attorney.

Thank you.

2 Decide on an emergency plan for your family.

If you are the only guardian for your child or other children under your care, begin making a plan for their care. At Dummit Fradin, we can help you draft all the legal documents you need to provide for your family while you are detained. This includes legal guardianship documents, financial and healthcare power of attorney, school and travel authorization forms and more.

3 Know your immigrant rights.

- You have the right to stay silent.
- You don't have to speak with an immigration official or answer their questions.
- If you decide to remain silent, politely thank the officer but tell them you are using your right to remain silent and that you would like to speak with your attorney.

4 Do not open the door.

The ICE officer needs to have a valid warrant signed by a judge to enter your home. A deportation order is not the same thing as a warrant that allows them to enter your home, search it, and arrest you. **ICE cannot legally enter your home without your permission.** Ask the ICE official to pass the warrant signed by the judge under your door or show it to you through a window.

5 Ask the ICE officer for your A Number.

After you are detained by an ICE agent, immediately ask the officer for your A Number. This information is necessary for your loved one to communicate with you, and for your attorney to represent you. During your first phone call, give this A Number to your loved one.

6 Do not sign anything ICE gives you without showing it to your attorney first.

If you, your spouse, or your child are detained by ICE in North Carolina, Dummit Fradin is here to help. Our North Carolina immigration attorneys take your case seriously and will make sure you understand your rights as a United States immigrant. Contact us today to meet with an attorney in Winston-Salem, Greensboro, or High Point.

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website: www.dummitfradin.com

email: clientservices@dummitfradin.com

telephone: (877) 978-3218

Winston-Salem

Greensboro

High Point

