



September 2025

Deportation Preparedness & Family Safety Planning Guide

For Families at Risk of Deportation

This guide is designed to help you and your family prepare for the possibility of detention or deportation. By planning ahead, you can protect your loved ones, ensure that your children are cared for, and make sure that important matters are handled if you cannot be present.

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Immediate Safety & Family Readiness



Know Your Rights

- You have the right to remain silent.
- You have the right to refuse entry unless ICE has a warrant signed by a judge.
- You do not have to sign documents you don't understand.

Quick Checklist: ICE Emergency Preparation

- ☐ Keep a bag packed with basic necessities for you & your family
- ☐ Teach children what to do if a parent is taken (
- ☐ at least one phone number for a trusted person.

My Emergency Call Plan

If I am detained, the first three people to call are:

1. Name _____ Phone: _____
2. Name _____ Phone: _____
3. Name _____ Phone: _____



Children's Needs & Care

Planning for Care

If you have children, decide now who will take care of them if you are detained. Speak with this person, and give them legal authority if possible.

Documents to Prepare for Children

- ☐ Birth certificates
- ☐ Passports or consular IDs Health insurance cards
- ☐ Immunization and medical records School contact information

WORKSHEET: Emergency Childcare Plan

Child's Legal Name: _____

Doctor's Name & Phone _____

School & Teacher Contact: _____

Allergies/Medications: _____

Temporary Caregiver:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

SAMPLE: Limited Power of Attorney for Childcare- see appendix



Make Sure Money is Accessible

Why Plan?

If you are detained, your family may not be able to access your accounts, pay bills, or cover emergencies. Planning now ensures stability.

Financial Checklist

- Add a trusted person as joint account holder or give POA.
- Make a list of monthly bills and due dates.
- Save a small emergency fund in cash if possible.
- Share passwords only with someone you trust.

WORKSHEET: Monthly Bills Tracker

Bill	Company	Amount Due	Due Date	How to pay
Rent/Mortgage				
Utilities				
Car Loan				
Other				

Legal & Bond Preparation



Understanding Immigration Bond

If a person is arrested by immigration authorities (ICE), they may be held in detention while their immigration case is pending. In many cases, the immigration judge can decide whether to release them on **bond**.

A **bond** is money paid to the U.S. government to guarantee that the person will return to court for their hearings. If the person attends all court dates, the bond money can be returned at the end of the case (to the person who paid it). If they miss a court date, the bond money is lost and the person may face deportation.

Not everyone qualifies for bond. People with certain criminal convictions or prior deportations may be ineligible. If bond is possible, the judge decides the amount based on factors like community ties, family, work history, and whether the person is considered a flight risk or a danger.

Why Prepare in Advance?

If you are detained, your family will have very little time to gather the documents needed to show you deserve a bond. Preparing a **Bond Packet** in advance can make a big difference. A bond packet helps the attorney and judge see that you are a responsible member of the community with strong ties and no reason to run away. It usually includes:

- Proof of your **identity** (passport, consular ID, birth certificate)
- Proof of **residence** (lease, utility bills, letters from landlord)
- Proof of **employment** (pay stubs, letter from employer, tax returns)
- Evidence of **community ties** (letters from church, volunteer groups, neighbors)
- Evidence of **family ties** (marriage certificate, children's birth certificates)

Step by Step: How Bond is Decided

1. **Detention:** ICE arrests you and places you in a detention center.
2. **Bond Hearing:** An immigration judge reviews your case, based upon recent case law only people who entered with inspection will receive a bond hearing in front of a judge. For anyone who entered without inspection bond can only be set by ICE.
3. **Bond Packet:** Your family or attorney presents documents showing you are not a danger or flight risk.
4. **Judge's Decision:** The judge may set bond, deny bond, or grant a lower/higher amount than requested.
5. **Payment:** A family member or friend pays the bond at an ICE office. The person is released while their case continues.
6. **After Release:** You must attend every hearing and follow all orders. If you do, the bond money can be returned after the case ends.

Checklist: Bond Packet Documents

- ☐ Copy of passport or consular ID
- ☐ Lease agreement or mortgage documents
- ☐ Recent utility bills showing address
- ☐ Employment letter and recent pay stubs
- ☐ Last 2–3 years of tax returns
- ☐ Birth certificates or marriage certificates showing family ties
- ☐ Letters of support from family, employer, community members, or church
- ☐ School records of children (to show responsibility for them)
- ☐ Medical documentation for any qualifying relatives (parents, spouse, children)
- ☐ Evidence of being clean and sober

Bond Worksheet

Use this to prepare your bond packet before any detention happens. Write neatly. If something does not apply, write "N/A".

How to use this page

1. Read the line in bold.
2. Write the information asked for in the blank.
3. If the line asks for a document, write where it is kept and who can access it.

A. Quick Contacts

- **Primary emergency contact:** _____
Write full name and best phone
- **Backup emergency contact:** _____
Write full name and best phone
- **Immigration attorney or legal help:** _____
Write name, law firm, phone, email A-Number (if you have one):

B. About You

Full legal name: _____
Write your name as it appears on your ID or passport.

Other names used: _____
Write any nicknames or names used before.

Date of birth: _____
Write month, day, and year.

Home address: _____
Write your current street address, city, state, zip.

Best language: _____
Write your main language.

C. Identity Documents

For each document, write where it is kept and who can get it quickly.

Passport (Keep a photocopy with this workbook)

Where is it kept? _____

Who can access it? _____

Expiration: _____

Consular ID or State ID (Keep a photocopy with this workbook)

Where is it kept? _____

Who can access it? _____

Expiration: _____

Birth certificate (Keep a photocopy with this workbook)

Where is it kept? _____

Who can access it? _____

Any prior immigration papers

Examples, I-862 NTA, prior orders, work permits.

Where is it kept? _____

Who can access it? _____

Proof of Address

Pick at least two. Write where each document is and who can grab it.

Lease or mortgage

Location: _____

Person with access: _____

Utility bill with your name and address

Type of bill: _____

Location: _____

Person with access: _____

Letter from landlord

Location: _____

Person with access: _____

D. Work and Income

Employer name and contact

Write company name, supervisor name, phone. _____

Job title and start date __

Pay schedule _____

Weekly, biweekly, or monthly.

Most recent pay stubs

Write dates of the last two or three pay stubs and where they are kept.

Dates: _____/_____/_____

Location: _____

Person with access: _____

Tax returns available

Write years you can provide and where they are kept.

Years: _____

Location: _____

Person with access: _____

If self-employed: _____

Write business name, type of work, proof available, for example invoices, bank statements.

E. Family Ties-Spouse or partner

Name and status (U.S. citizen, LPR, no status): _____

Lives with you? Yes / No

Children

Write full names, dates of birth, and who cares for them if you are detained.

1. _____ DOB _____

2. _____ DOB _____

3. _____ DOB _____

Other family who depend on you: _____

Write names and how they depend on you.

F. Community Ties

School, church, or community groups

Write the name of the group, how long you have been involved, and a contact person.

1. Group _____ Years _____ Contact _____

2. Group _____ Years _____ Contact _____

Volunteering or coaching, etc.

Write where and how long. _____

G. Support Letters Plan

List people who will write letters for you. Use the Sample Letter in the Appendix.

Letter writer 1 _____

Name, relationship, phone, email

What they can say about you, for example work ethic, parenting, church role

Letter writer 2 _____

Name, relationship, phone, email

What they can say _____

Letter writer 3 _____

Name, relationship, phone, email

What they can say _____

Bond Payer Plan

The person who pays bond should be a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, age 18 or older, with valid ID. Write who will post bond and how they will pay.

Primary bond payer (obligor)

Full name: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Status: U.S. citizen / LPR: _____

Phone and email: _____

ID they will bring: Driver's license, passport, or green card

Emergency Contacts & Access



Why Emergency Contacts Matter

If you are detained or deported, your family and community need to know who to call first. Having clear emergency contacts prevents confusion and ensures that important tasks are handled quickly.

- **Children's safety:** Someone must be ready to pick up your children from school or care for them in your absence.
- **Property and finances:** A trusted person may need to pay rent, keep bills current, or protect your belongings.
- **Communication:** ICE, attorneys, schools, and doctors need a reliable contact who can respond immediately.

Choosing your emergency contacts is one of the most important steps in this workbook.

Qualities of a Good Emergency Contact

When choosing, think carefully. This person should be:

1. Trustworthy – Will act in your best interest and not misuse your information.
2. Available – Lives nearby or can respond quickly in an emergency.
3. Stable – Has reliable housing, transportation, and communication (phone/email).
4. Legally Safe – Ideally has legal immigration status (citizen or lawful permanent resident). This avoids complications if they must interact with schools, courts, or ICE.
5. Responsible – Will follow through with instructions and care for children or property if needed.

You may need different contacts for different roles, for example:

- A primary family contact (spouse, parent, sibling).
- A child care contact (guardian or trusted friend).
- A financial contact (person who can pay bills or access bank).
- A community contact (church leader, neighbor, teacher).

Sharing Access Safely

Your contacts may need access to your:

- Home – keys, lease, or mortgage information.
- Car – keys, title, or insurance papers.
- Documents – birth certificates, passports, medical records, tax returns.
- Bank accounts – only if you have given permission, such as a power of attorney.

⚠ Tip: *Never share all passwords and documents with someone you don't fully trust. Use sealed envelopes or a locked folder, and clearly label what the person should open only if you are detained.*

Worksheet: Emergency Contacts List

Primary Contact:

Full Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Childcare Contact:

Full Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Authorized to pick up children from school? Yes / No

Financial/Property Contact

Full Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Access to: ☐ Bank ☐ Rent/Mortgage ☐ Car ☐ Bills ☐ Other: ____

Community Contact

Full Name: _____

Role (church, school, neighbor, etc.): _____

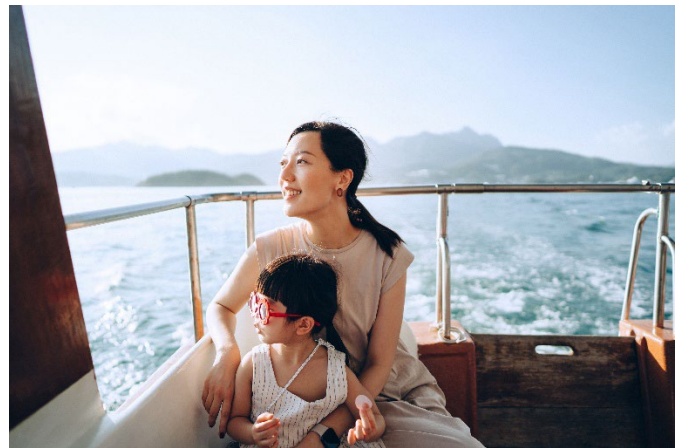
Phone: _____

Email: _____

Preparing Your Contacts

After choosing your contacts:

- Talk to them about your wishes. Make sure they agree and understand their role. • Give them a copy of this workbook (or at least their relevant pages).
- Show them where important documents are stored.
- Provide them with your attorney's contact information. • Update the list if your circumstances change.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



What should I do if ICE comes to my home?

- Stay calm. Do **not** open the door unless ICE shows you a **warrant signed by a judge**.
- You have the right to remain silent. You do not have to answer questions about where you were born or your immigration status.
- You can slide a note under the door asking for the warrant.
- If they force entry, do not resist. Say, "I choose to remain silent. I want to speak with a lawyer."

What happens to my children if I am detained?

- Choose a trusted caregiver now.
- Sign a power of attorney for childcare if your state allows.
- Tell your children who will take care of them and make sure schools know who is authorized to pick them up.

Can my family visit me in detention?

Yes, but visits follow strict rules. Including:

- Visitors usually need government-issued photo ID.
- Children can often visit with an adult.
- Visits are usually behind glass or monitored.
- Phone calls may be allowed, but you may have to call collect or through a prepaid system.

Who can pay my bond?

- A **U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident**, age 18 or older, with valid ID.
- They must pay at a designated ICE office, usually with a cashier's check or money order.
- Some locations may accept electronic payments.
- That person will get the refund if you attend all hearings and follow the judge's orders.

How much is bond?

- Immigration bond can be as low as \$1,500 or as high as \$50,000 or more.
- Judges decide based on community ties, work history, family responsibilities, and criminal record.
- Having a strong bond packet can help lower the amount.

What if I can't pay bond?

- Family and friends can pool money together.
- Some nonprofit organizations and community groups provide help.
- Some bond funds may assist in limited cases. Ask your attorney about local resources.

What happens to the bond money?

- If you attend all hearings and comply with orders, the person who paid the bond can request a refund at the end of the case.
- If you miss court or disobey an order, the bond money is lost.

What if I lose my case after being released on bond?

- You will have more time with your family, even if you need to eventually leave.
- You may have had the chance to explore legal relief options with your lawyer.
- Bond money is refunded if you comply with all conditions and departed as required.

What if I have U.S. citizen children?

Having U.S. citizen children does not automatically protect you from deportation. However:

- It may help show strong family ties for bond.
- It may make you eligible for certain forms of relief, such as cancellation of removal or hardship waivers.
- Always discuss your options with a licensed immigration attorney.

Can I lawfully work while my case is pending?

- If you had a valid work permit before detention, it may still be valid.
- Some forms of relief (like asylum) allow for work permits after filing.
- Ask your lawyer if you qualify to apply or renew.

What if I don't have a lawyer?

- You have the right to represent yourself, but immigration law is very complex.
- You can ask the court for a list of free or low-cost legal service providers.
- Having a lawyer greatly increases your chances of success.

Remember: Every case is different. These FAQs provide general information, but always confirm with a trusted immigration attorney for your specific situation.

Staying Safe & Informed



Staying Connected and Protected

Deportation risk can feel overwhelming. Fear and confusion make people vulnerable to mistakes, scams, or unsafe choices. Preparing ahead helps keep you and your family safe, supported, and informed.

A. Community Resources

- Your community can be a lifeline. Local organizations often provide: Help with bond or legal fees
- Emergency childcare
- Food and housing assistance • Transportation to court
- Know Your Rights trainings

Ask your attorney or community center for a list of local immigrant support groups.

B. Avoiding Scams

Unfortunately, people in stressful situations are often targeted by scammers. Protect yourself by knowing these red flags:

- Someone who asks you to sign blank papers.
- “Notarios” or unlicensed consultants who promise results.
- People who say they can guarantee a green card, bond, or dismissal.
- Demands for cash only, no receipts, or secret payments.

Always work with a **licensed attorney** or an accredited representative recognized by the Department of Justice.

C. Stress & Self-Care Tips

Living under deportation risk is stressful. Caring for yourself and your family is part of staying safe.

- **Have a plan.** Preparation reduces panic.
- **Talk openly with your children** in age-appropriate ways. Reassure them that someone will care for them.
- **Stay connected.** Reach out to friends, faith communities, or support groups.
- **Practice calming techniques.** Breathing, prayer, or quiet time can help when anxiety rises.
- **Seek professional help** if stress feels overwhelming — many clinics offer low-cost counseling.

D. Safety Tips Checklist

Use this as a quick reference.

- ☐ Do not open the door without a judge-signed warrant.
- ☐ Keep emergency contact numbers written down and memorized.
- ☐ Teach children who to call if you are taken.
- ☐ Keep copies of important documents in a safe, accessible place.
- ☐ Identify one trusted person with legal status who can handle emergencies.
- ☐ Avoid giving personal details to strangers or people claiming to be officials without proof.
- ☐ Stay updated on court dates and check your mail daily.

Remember: Staying safe and informed means being prepared, protecting yourself from dishonest people, and caring for your family's emotional well-being.

Appendix- Sample Forms & Templates

Limited Power of Attorney for Childcare

Note to Families:

This document allows you to give another trusted adult the authority to care for your children if you cannot. It lets the caregiver handle school enrollment, medical visits, and day-to-day care. Laws vary by state, so check with an attorney and have the form notarized if possible.

Limited Power of Attorney for Childcare

I, _____ (full legal name), residing at _____ (address), am the parent/legal guardian of the following minor child(ren):

1. _____ Date of Birth: _____
2. _____ Date of Birth: _____

I appoint _____ (full name of caregiver), residing at _____ (address), as my Attorney-in-Fact ("Agent") to make decisions regarding the care, custody, and control of my child(ren).

Authority Granted: My Agent may:

- Provide for my child(ren)'s daily care and supervision.
- Enroll and withdraw my child(ren) from school and access educational records. Consent to and obtain medical, dental, and psychological care.
- Provide food, clothing, and shelter.
- Travel locally with my child(ren) as needed.

Limitations: My Agent may not consent to marriage, adoption, or termination of parental rights of my child(ren).

Duration: This Power of Attorney begins on _____ and ends on _____, unless revoked earlier in writing.

Signed: _____ (Parent/Guardian)

Date: _____

Accepted by: _____ (Agent/Caregiver)

Date: _____

Notary Acknowledgment (Recommended):

[Standard notary block with state, county, date, signature, and seal]

Financial Power of Attorney

Note to Families:

This document allows a trusted person to handle your financial matters if you are detained. They may pay rent, access bank accounts, or manage bills. Only give this authority to someone you fully trust. Notarization is strongly recommended.

Financial Power of Attorney

I, _____ (full legal name), residing at _____
(address), appoint _____ (full legal name of agent), residing at _____
(address), as my Attorney-in-Fact ("Agent").

Powers Granted: My Agent may do the following on my behalf:

- Access and manage my bank accounts.
- Pay rent, mortgage, utilities, and other bills.
- File and sign tax documents.
- Manage insurance policies.
- Buy or sell personal property necessary for family support.

Limitations: My Agent may not make gifts of my property or change beneficiaries of insurance or retirement accounts.

Duration: This Power of Attorney takes effect immediately and will continue until _____ or until I revoke it in writing.

Signed: _____ (Principal)

Date: _____

Accepted by: _____ (Agent)

Date: _____

Notary Acknowledgment (Recommended):

[Standard notary block with state, county, date, signature, and seal]

Sample Letter of Support for Bond

Note to Families:

Support letters help the immigration judge see the detained person as a valued member of the community. Each letter should come from someone who knows the person well and can speak about their good character, family responsibilities, and community involvement.

Letter of Support Template

[Today's Date]

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is _____, and I am writing this letter in support of _____ (person in detention). I have known them for ____ years as their [friend/employer/neighbor/family member].

I can testify that _____ is a hardworking, honest, and responsible person. They have always provided for their family and contributed to our community. For example, [insert specific story or detail, such as volunteering, helping at school, being reliable at work].

They are a loving [parent/spouse/child] who is deeply committed to their family. Their absence has caused hardship for their loved ones, especially [explain impact on children, spouse, or family].

I respectfully request that bond be granted so that _____ can return home to support their family and prepare for their case.

Sincerely,

(Signature)

Printed Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact Card

Note to Families:

This is a small card you and your children can carry in a wallet, backpack, or purse. It provides key phone numbers and instructions if you are detained.

Emergency Contact Card

Name of Parent: _____

A-Number (if any): A-_____

Primary Emergency Contact:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Backup Contact:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Attorney Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Law Firm: _____

Important Reminder: If I am detained, please call my emergency contacts immediately and tell them where I am being held.

Document Inventory Table

Note to Families:

This table helps you organize all important documents in one place. Write down what you have, where it is stored, and who can access it. Keep this updated every few months.

Category	Document	Where It Is Stored	Who Has Access	Notes
Identity & Immigration	Passport			Expiration:
	Consular ID / State ID			Expiration:
	Birth Certificate(s)			
	Marriage Certificate			
	Immigration Papers (NTAs, EADs, Notices)			
Children	Birth Certificates			
	Medical Records			Allergies:
	School Records			Teacher Contact:
Financial	Bank Statements			Account ending in:

	Tax Returns			Years:
	Pay Stubs			Last 3 months
	Lease / Mortgage			Landlord/Bank:
	Utility Bills			Which utilities:
Health	Health Insurance Card(s)			Policy #:
	Prescription Records			Pharmacy:
Property & Other	Car Title / Insurance			Plate #:
	Life / Auto / Renter's Insurance			Policy #:
	Keys (house, car, storage)			
	Other Important Papers			

☒ **Tip for Families:** Make one copy of this table for yourself and another for your most trusted emergency contact. If possible, keep the actual documents in a binder or folder labeled "Emergency Documents."