

Local Church Guidance for ICE Visits

Public and Private Spaces –

- ICE Officers may enter public spaces (e.g., worship services or other activities that are open to the public).
- Private Spaces – offices, locked sanctuaries (when services are not being conducted), or areas marked private or for which there is a reasonable expectation of privacy, require a lawful warrant for entry.

Lawful Warrants:

- Must be signed by a Judge or Magistrate
- Names a Specific Person or designated records
- ICE Officers must show proper identification
- **Refusing to honor a lawful warrant presented by a properly identified ICE Officer is a federal offense.**

Types of Warrants:

- Warrant for a Person – must name the individual or individuals
- Warrant for Records – should clearly identify records to be inspected.
- Questions or Doubts – If requirements are not met, then please contact an attorney or reach out to your Annual Conference Chancellor.

Administrative Warrants:

- ICE may use administrative warrants to enter private spaces, conduct inspections or make arrests; these are of doubtful legality
- Even when presented with an administrative warrant, do not obstruct the ICE officers.
- Ask to see and take a picture of the administrative warrant if possible.
- Document everything you can if an administrative warrant is used.
- Refusing to honor even an administrative warrant may risk arrest.