

Tampa Immigrants Rights Committee

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A NOTE ON WARRANTS

SUPPORT THE TAMPA IMMIGRANTS RIGHTS COMMITTEE

IDENTIFYING ICE

Vehicles

Learning how to identify ICE can aid in being able to safely avoid them and provide accurate reports

Typically use U.S made vehicles. Cars may be labeled on the door or rear with:

- ICE
- Homeland Security
- CBP

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- Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Through 287g agreements, particularly the jail taskforce model, as well as intergovernmental service agreements (IGSA), local police (TPD), U.S Department of Agriculture, Highway patrol, and even Fish and Wildlife can carry out immigration raids or arrests.

Vehicles may have U.S government plates (white with red or blue and codes like "G" or "US GOV".) Some unmarked cars have no plates at all.

Dark tinted windows: ICE often uses vehicles with heavily tinted windows to conceal agents' identities. This is common on SUV's or vans.

ICE may use unmarked cars, often working in groups or conducting coordinated stops. Cars may have temporary lights or surveillance

Some vehicle variations:

U.S. Customs & Border Patrol	Unmarked Vehicle	Local Police
		

Uniforms

Both ICE & CBP will sometimes wear street/casual clothes, bulletproof vests.

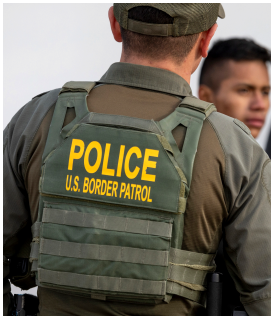
Agents may carry firearms, handcuffs, radios, or other tools of law enforcement.

Look for vests that say ICE, Police HSI, or Police Homeland Security Investigations. As mentioned above, under certain agreements and circumstances, agents from local police departments to the DEA could be deputized.

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Some uniform variations:

ICE	HSI	DHS	CBP
 A close-up of an ICE officer's tactical vest. The vest is dark green and has a large, rectangular patch on the back that reads "POLICE ICE" in bold, white, sans-serif capital letters.	 A close-up of an HSI officer's tactical vest. The vest is dark blue and has a patch on the back that reads "POLICE" in large, white, sans-serif capital letters, with "HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS" in smaller, white, sans-serif capital letters below it.	 A close-up of a DHS officer's tactical vest. The vest is dark blue and has a patch on the back that reads "POLICE" in large, yellow, sans-serif capital letters, with "HOMELAND SECURITY" in smaller, yellow, sans-serif capital letters below it.	 A close-up of a CBP officer's tactical vest. The vest is olive green and has a patch on the back that reads "POLICE" in large, yellow, sans-serif capital letters, with "U.S. BORDER PATROL" in smaller, yellow, sans-serif capital letters below it.

Common Types of Law Enforcement Activity

POLICE ACTIVITY

Local police can engage in abusive policing which can put immigrants at risk of detention and deportation. (ongoing)

CHECKPOINTS OR STOPS

Regular police, ICE, CBP, or DHS asking for immigration papers or targeting immigrants on roads, transit points, outside of schools, etc. (can last for hours)

IMMIGRATION ARRESTS

When ICE/CBP/DHS is searching for a particular individual at their home or workplace. They can and will also arrest other immigrants they encounter in the same area. (often lasts less than an hour, sometimes just a few minutes)

IMMIGRATION RAIDS

ICE/CBP/DHS officers swarming a neighborhood, workplace, event, or public space and arresting large numbers of immigrants. (may last hours or even days)

DOCUMENTING ICE

We must not do the work for ICE by spreading inaccurate information that causes unnecessary panic in the community. It is important to report responsibly and share verified information in order to be organized and help communities best protect themselves.

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IF YOU WITNESS WHAT YOU THINK IS AN IMMIGRATION RAID, ARREST, OR RELATED ACTIVITY:

- Take photos and/or video from a safe distance (without exposing identities of people being targeted) while ensuring your safety and the safety of others around you
- Do not livestream. The information needs to be verified and identities of affected individuals protected before sharing.
- Take note of exact date, time, location.
- Take note of the type of law enforcement agency, type and number of police officers, vehicles, and activities.
- Share this information with a reputable local immigrant rights organization or reputable immigration lawyer so they can try to send someone to the scene to verify and then responsibly publicize the details with a clear call to action (to either avoid the area or to mobilize to the area for observation or mass protest).
- If you can't get in touch with an organization, share on social media ONLY with the previous details included.

Salute Method

S	SIZE AND STRENGTH - It's critical to report how many ICE or federal agents and vehicles you see. If there are different law enforcement agencies or local police, note the number of agents and agencies involved.
A	ACTIVITY AND ACTION - What is happening? A traffic stop? Is ICE targeting specific individuals? Are ICE vehicles circling a school? The more information, the better.
L	LOCATION - Where did you see ICE? At a school or local business? At someone's house? Take note of the cross streets and if ICE is going in a specific direction.
U	UNIFORM - Specify what agents are wearing. Are they wearing civilian clothing, uniforms, or vests? Masks, face coverings, hats, shades, or anything else concealing their identity? What do any badges or vests say?
T	TIME AND DATE - One of the most critical pieces of information to note when reporting or posting about ICE sightings is the time and date ICE was spotted.
E	EQUIPMENT AND WEAPONS - Are ICE agents carrying weapons? Identify any equipment agents have (including guns, tear gas, pepper spray, or other weapons) and whether they use them on people.

Other Helpful Things to Document

- How did the agents present themselves?

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- What did the agents say or do to get into the house/car/business?
- Who was present during the arrest?
- How many officers were present?
- Were they armed?
- How were they dressed?
- Did they say they were from ICE or a different agency?
- Did they lie?
- Did they claim they had authority to enter?
- Did they intimidate anyone?
- Did they use verbal or physical force?
- Were children, elderly, disabled, or other vulnerable people present?
- Did they handcuff anyone in front of children?
- Did they use discriminatory language or slurs?
- Did they draw weapons?
- Did they keep residents from moving freely?
- Did they search the location or belongings without permission?

Note for Observers in Florida

Be aware of specific local laws that increase risk:

- **287(g)**: Through 287g agreements, local police (TPD), U.S Department of Agriculture, Highway patrol, and even Fish and Wildlife can carry out immigration raids or arrests.
- **Florida's HALO Law**: An officer can order any person to move back 25 feet from an active scene. Not following this order can lead to arrest.
 - For your safety: When documenting, keep a clear distance. If an
 - officer tells you to move back, they are creating a "police perimeter"-a boundary around a scene that you cannot cross. Staying outside this boundary keeps you safe and legally protected so you can continue to observe.

HOW TO SHARE REPORTS OF ICE ACTIVITY

If a Report is Not First Hand & Not Verified

Do not share it on social media or on WhatsApp, Telegram or other networks where people can reshare unverified information.

Reach out directly to organizations in your area who are trained to go out, document and verify the report.

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If you know directly-affected people in the area, notify them to be aware of the possibility of ICE/CBP/DHS/police in the area. Clarify that the report is unverified. Be prepared to provide emotional support.

If you see others sharing unverified reports, refer them to these guidelines.

If a Report is Verified

Prioritize notifying directly-affected people you know in the area. Be prepared to provide emotional support.

Connect people to organizations that they can join for community- based defense.

Follow advice in the post for what to do. Contact TampalRC or other local immigrant rights organizations to see how you can help.

Share appropriate Know Your Rights materials.

How to Support Verification Efforts

Directly share posts from their verified source organization so people know the original source of reports to trace, confirm, correct, or retract; and to minimize those intentionally spreading misinformation.

Do not screenshot other people's reports or copy-paste reports as that can't be verified, and those reports could be superseded by posts with new, important updates.

What are the Dangers of Unverified Reporting

Trust is broken between affected communities, organizations, and well-intentioned bystanders.

People's existing fears and traumas are further amplified. This results in further isolation of impacted communities and prevents clear, rational thinking.

Spreads fear and paranoia in targeted communities, without offering any actual safety. People may stop going to work, sending children to school, or leaving their homes.

Rather than having an organized and disciplined anti-raids response, we end up not being able to allocate resources toward having effective community defense.

HOW TO RESPOND TO ICE ACTIVITY

Do's & Don'ts

DO	DONT
• Document and Record ICE officers and their tactics • Send confirmed sightings to TampalRC or other Immigrant rights groups • Ask the person being detained their name and emergency contact phone number • Ask ICE agents: "do you have an administrative/judicial warrant for this arrest?" • Verify that judicial warrants have been signed by a judge. • Stay on scene to gather info from witnesses and try to identify family/friends • Follow direction from immigrant rights groups on the ground	• Yell or whistle that ICE is present without confirmation • Livestream ANY ICE interactions • Record faces of people being arrested • Escalate without permission from the detainee/family • Follow around every car with tinted windows/ report this as ICE • Send reports of suspected ICE to groups without: time, date, location • Aimlessly shout "where is your warrant" over and over again

**More information on different types of warrants near end of document*

Taking Direction

Take direction from impacted people!

Focus on listening to the needs of the community, not necessarily what you think or expect should happen. Ask for consent at every turn from victims and their loved ones before taking any action that would draw attention. This includes making phone calls, talking to media, errand running, etc.

A Note on Best Practices for Neighborhood Groups

Be aware that patrolling when not asked can freak people out and cause panic

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DO NOT shout/whistle if you see a suspicious car that is not confirmed to be ICE! Many cars in the area have tinted windows and we don't want to spread unnecessary panic!

DON'T drive in circles around schools or areas you decide "need protecting" if that is not being asked for. Again this can cause panic.

Again, take direction from immigrant rights groups, and families.

Following Up With the Family

Ask for permission to gather & share the following information with TampalRC so we can follow up with support:

- Get name, date of birth & nationality of the person detained to help locate them
- Get name, phone number, and language needs of family member/loved ones that we can contact
- Ask if the person detained was shown a paper or told that ICE had an administrative warrant during time of arrest
- Ask if there are immediate needs (getting kids from school or moving a car)
- Ask if ICE came looking for that person specifically, or if they were just nearby

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

What to do if the Police or Immigrant Agents Detain You

YOUR RIGHTS

- You have the right to remain silent
- You have the right to say no to a search of yourself, your vehicle or your home.
- If you're not under arrest you have the right to calmly leave
- You have constitutional rights regardless of your immigration or citizenship status.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Stay calm and friendly
- Don't interfere with or obstruct the police
- Don't lie or give them fake documents
- Prepare yourself and your family in case you are arrested
- Remember the details of the incident
- Prepare your legal case if you think your rights have been violated

If You're Stopped in Your Vehicle

Stop the vehicle in a safe place as quickly as possible. Turn off the car, turn on the interior light, open the window a little and put your hands on the steering wheel.

If a police officer or immigration agent asks to search inside your car, you can say no. But if the police believes the car contains evidence of a crime, they can search it without your permission.

The driver and passengers have the right to remain silent. If you are a passenger, you can ask if you're free to go. If the officer says yes, stay seated silently or calmly leave. Even if they say no, you still have the right to remain silent.

If they ask for it, show your car registration, insurance and license (if you have it).

If the Police or Immigration Agents Come to Your Home

If the police or immigration agents come to your home, you don't have to let them in unless they have certain specific types of warrants signed by a judge.

You can ask the officer to slide the warrant under the door or hold it up in front of a window so you can verify the warrant.

If They Stop and Question You on the Street

Stay calm. Don't flee. Don't converse with the police or immigration agent. Keep your hands where the police can see them.

Ask if you're free to go. If the officer says yes, leave calmly and silently. If they arrest you, you have the right to know why.

You have the right to remain silent and you don't have to talk about your immigration or citizenship status with the police, immigration agents, or any officer. You don't have to respond to questions about where you were born or how you came into the country.

Don't lie about your immigration or citizenship status or give them fake documents.

If you think your rights have been violated don't hesitate to file a complaint. Write down everything you remember so you can present a written complaint.

If You're Arrested

Don't resist arrest even if you believe you're being unjustly arrested. That will be fought in court. Prepare yourself and your family in case you're arrested. Memorize phone numbers of your family and lawyer. Make an emergency plan if you have kids or take medications.

If You Aren't a Citizen

Don't talk about your immigration status with anyone except your lawyer. While you're in jail it's possible that an immigration agent will visit you. You have the right to not respond to questions or sign anything without first talking to a lawyer. Read documents carefully. If you don't understand, ask for an interpreter.

You have the right to communicate with your consulate or request that an official notify your consulate of your arrest.

A NOTE ON WARRANTS

ADMINISTRATIVE WARRANTS

Administrative warrants are used to detain immigrants anywhere that is not a locked private space. Many arrests happen in open areas. Asking for an administrative warrant will help prevent collateral arrests.

JUDICIAL WARRANTS

Judicial warrants are needed to enter a private home or business. If an agent is trying to enter a private home or business, ask to see a judicial warrant signed by a judge. Do not open your home or business without a judicial warrant. This advice remains the same as always.

SEARCH WARRANTS

A search warrant allows the police to enter the address listed, but only to search the areas and articles mentioned.

ARREST WARRANTS

An arrest warrant allows the police to enter the home of the person named on the warrant if they think they'll find them inside.

ICE WARRANTS

An ICE warrant alone does not allow the agents to enter your home without your permission. If you choose to talk to them, step outside and close the door behind you.

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SUPPORT THE TAMPA IMMIGRANTS RIGHTS COMMITTEE

We're a direct-action grassroots immigrants rights organization based in Tampa. We're the Tampa chapter of the Legalization For All Network. We meet every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at C. Blythe Andrews Junior Library at 6PM. Our meetings are open to everyone and no prior organizing experience is needed.

- Follow [@TampaIRC](#) on [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#) for updates
- Subscribe to our email list for email updates about events: <https://linktr.ee/tampairc>
- Donate to support our organizing
 - Venmo: [@TampaIRC813](#)
 - CashApp: [\\$TampaIRC](#)
- Tap into the Legalization For All Network
 - Legalization for All (L4A) is a national network of organizations fighting for immigrants rights and legalization for all. Join a chapter near you or reach out to L4A about starting a chapter.
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