

Are You at Risk for Immigration Arrest, Detention and Deportation? Develop an Emergency Plan

The Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) strongly recommends that individuals and their families have an emergency plan in place if they are at risk for arrest and deportation. Below are some things you or your family members may want to do and issues you may wish to consider if you could be arrested and detained by immigration authorities.

- ✓ **Carry Id.** If possible, carry some **legal** form of identification issued in the U.S. This could be a driver's license or state ID, permanent resident card ("green card") or Employment Authorization Document (EAD) issued by immigration authorities, employer or school ID, union card or tax payer ID. Do not carry someone else's ID, or an ID from another country. Remember also that an international driver's license does not protect you from being arrested.
- ✓ **Emergency Contacts.** Carry a card with the name, address and phone number of an immigration lawyer, member of the clergy, or community organization that can advise you in case of detention. Contact them as soon as you can, if you feel you are in danger of detention. If you are detained, you have the right to make a phone call. Also, you and your family or close friends should have the names and phone numbers of a good immigration lawyer, clergy member, and/or community organization posted near the telephone at home in case you are detained.
- ✓ **Know Your Medications.** If you take a prescription medicine regularly, either carry the prescription with you or carry information from the prescription label that gives the name of the medicine and the dosage. Carry the phone number of the doctor or clinic that prescribed the medicine for you and know why the medicine was prescribed. You can and should demand that any arresting officer, whether police department, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or Border Patrol, permit you to take your medicine or speak to a doctor. If you feel ill after being arrested, ask to have medical attention provided.
- ✓ **Safeguard Copies of Documents.** Ask a trusted relative or friend who is a citizen or legal resident to keep copies of any documents you may have received from, or filed with, immigration authorities, including your passport, and the name and phone number of the immigration lawyer or community agency that is helping you with your case. Tell other trusted family members or friends where these important documents are kept.



- ✓ **Know Your “A Number.”** If you have a pending case with immigration, it is important for you and your family members to know your Alien Registration number (“A number”). This information can help family members locate you if you are being detained. The “A number” should be listed on the Notice to Appear, Notice of Custody Determination, and any other document, such as a receipt notice for a pending application, that was issued by the immigration authorities or immigration court.
- ✓ **Childcare Emergency Plan.** When you develop an emergency plan, it is important for you to consider any childcare issues that may arise. Families may want to consider preparing a legal document that temporarily assigns the custody of their children to a responsible and trustworthy emergency caregiver (relative or friend) in case parent(s) are detained. Ask a community agency for a referral to an agency or lawyer that can prepare such a document for a modest fee. Additionally, the emergency caregiver should know the name(s) and phone number(s) of your children’s schools. Also, it is important that your children know how to contact the emergency caregiver.
- ✓ **Financial Emergency Plan.** You may wish to have a financial emergency plan. If you have a bank account, a car, a house, and/or other financial and legal matters, you also should consider preparing a legal document that allows a trusted family member or a close friend to handle your financial affairs while you are detained. Ask a community agency for a referral to an agency or lawyer that can prepare such documents for a modest fee.