

How Care Teams Can Support Immigrant Families

Immigration laws and policies rapidly change, especially when there are new presidential administrations in office. Care teams working with mixed-status families can always provide support by sharing important information about people's rights. Use this guide to learn key tips about navigating immigration systems.



KNOW KEY IMMIGRATION AGENCIES AND COURTS

- [US Citizenship and Immigration Services \(USCIS\)](#) – agency that decides immigration applications
- [Immigration and Customs Enforcement \(ICE\)](#)
- [Executive Office of Immigration Review \(EOIR\)](#) – immigration court

KNOW HOW TO NAVIGATE ONLINE IMMIGRATION TOOLS



Immigration Application Status:

Q: How can someone check their immigration application status?

A: USCIS has a [Case Status Online look-up tool](#). The applicant will need their 13 digit "receipt number".

Q: What is the receipt number?

A: This is the tracking number USCIS gives after someone has submitted their application.



Immigration Court Status:

Q: How can someone check the status of their immigration court case?

A: EOIR has an online [Immigration Court Case status](#) tool. The immigrant will need their A-number for the search.

Q: What is an A-number?

A: This is a 9-digit number given by the USCIS to someone who isn't a citizen.



Detainee Look-Up

Q: If an adult is detained (picked up) by ICE, how can they be found?

A: USCIS has an online [Detainee locator tool](#). You will need the adult Detainee's A-number.

Q: If an adult is detained (picked up) by ICE, how can they be found?

A: The search can also be done with the person's name spelled exactly and their birth country.

Q: Can I search for children under 18 years old?

A: Children under 18 will not show up in the Detainee Locator tool. Care teams can direct people to call [nearest ICE field office](#) from where the child was picked up.

Information contained in this resource is for educational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice or establish an attorney-client relationship. If you have questions, contact a lawyer or advocate.

This resource is made possible by the generous support of the Boston Bar Foundation.

Copyright 2025, All Rights Reserved

Last updated January 3, 2025

SUPPORT MIXED STATUS FAMILIES

Offer emergency planning for the care of the children. This includes:

- Having passports for the adults and children
- Give a copy of the parent's A-number to family and emergency contacts
- Identifying a caregiver for the child
- Creating a family reunification plan
- Listing the child's personal, health, and educational needs and service provider information

Key Planning Resources

- Massachusetts: BMC's [Family Preparedness Plan \(ESP\)](#) and [Facilitator Guide](#)
- Rhode Island: [Immigrant Coalition of RI's Family Preparedness Plan](#)
- Passport application for minors: [US Dept. of State](#)
- Benefits and Immigration: [Protecting Immigrant Families Coalition guides on public charge](#)

HELP PEOPLE BE PREPARED FOR ICE INTERACTIONS

- [Know their rights](#) in case ICE comes to their home.
- Print and Use "[Red Cards](#)" with Rights information
- Memorize phone numbers of family members and/or legal resources.
- Identify one person with US citizenship or immigration

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE DIGITAL DIGEST

DIGITAL
DIGEST

Information contained in this resource is for educational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice or establish an attorney-client relationship. If you have questions, contact a lawyer or advocate.

This resource is made possible by the generous support of the Boston Bar Foundation.

Copyright 2025, All Rights Reserved

Last updated January 5, 2025