

## What Are ICE Holds

Good Morning, my name is Tamara Jimenez, I am a board member of New Sanctuary Movement, I am originally from Nicaragua, my mother and I Immigrated to the USA 11 years ago.

I am the manager of my mother's business located at North Philadelphia. I live in constant fear that my mother who is undocumented could be at the wrong place in the wrong time at any moment, for example if there is a robbery in our business my mother will not get involved with the police because she is afraid that any contact can lead to her arrest and get an ICE hold, get deported and lost her business. In our business we hear stories from our customers whose family member have gotten an ICE hold and are in deportation proceedings and its disheartening to see the pain, the fear that ICE Holds cause by splitting families apart trough deportation.

ICE relies on Philadelphia law enforcement to find immigrants to deport; this makes it dangerous for immigrants, documented and undocumented to seek police assistance. **ICE holds are requests from the federal deportation office to local Philadelphia law enforcement. The request is to hold people who otherwise be released**, this hold is up to 48 hours so immigration can take custody of the body for deportation.

**ICE Holds can be issued at any point during a criminal case:** during an arrest, during a bail hearing, during a court case, during a prison sentence or while that person is on probation or parole, therefore this people are being double punished for one crime.

**The city of Philadelphia does not have to comply with these Hold requests** because they are not criminal warrants, they are not reviewed by a judge, and they are not mandatory. The city does not have to comply. Ending ICE holds for all will not interfere with the criminal system that our City already has in place.

**The connection between Immigration and the Philadelphia local enforcement is causing fear and mistrust to the agency that is supposed to protect everyone.** We the immigrant community see the Philadelphia police as a wing of deportation and therefore guilty of family separation. This causes fear not only for the adults but also for the kids who unfortunately understand and live the fear in a daily basis, fear of losing one or both of their parents. Immigrant communities don't feel safe and protected but terrorized of the police.

ICE holds violate our moral, ethical, and faith values of honoring the justice and dignity of each individual, regardless of immigration status, economic status, country of origin, marital status, gender identity and history with the criminal legal system.

This is about families, human dignity; if the City Philadelphia shares these values they should protect our immigrant communities, by ending ICE holds for all.