

Do You Know What Will Happen With Your Children If You Are Detained Or Deported?

STEP 1: TALK TO YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS

The most important step is for you to sit down with your family members and discuss the possibility of a family member being arrested or detained.

- Create a safe space.
- Make the purpose of your conversation clear: The conversation is not to scare family members, especially children, but to prepare everyone for the possible scenario that a parent or family member is picked up by ICE or deported.
- Make decisions as a family.
- Play out and talk through different scenarios:
 - What will happen if mom is picked up by ICE? What will happen if dad is picked up by ICE? What will happen if both parents are picked up by ICE?
 - Who will take care of the kids while one or both parents are detained?
 - What happens if one or both parents are deported? Where will your children live? Who will take care of them?
- Choose someone whom you trust to look after your children. This caretaker's immigration status does not matter.
 - Consider your child's relationship to this person. Does your child like this person? Does your child get along with this person? Does your child trust this person? Is your child comfortable around this person? Does your child know how to contact this person in case of an emergency?
 - Does this person know the procedure of taking care of your children? Consider any medications your child takes, doctor's visits, extracurricular activities, daily routine, friends, etc.



STEP 2: GATHER DOCUMENTS

Once you have a plan, gather all important documents and replace any missing documents (birth certificates, marriage license, medical history, passports, dual citizenship, etc.) and put them in one, safe place.

- If your child is a US citizen, apply right away for his/her passport. If possible, contact your consulate and apply for dual citizenship for your child.

STEP 3: GET CONNECTED

Attend a community-led Know Your Rights information session and legal clinic.

- Speak with a lawyer about your particular case and work with a community leader to create a deportation defense packet.

While lawyers, service providers, community leaders, and experts can provide helpful information and recommendations, it is ultimately your right and responsibility to decide what makes the most sense for you and your family members.



The Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition (PICC) is a diverse coalition of over 50 member organizations across the state, dedicated to advocating for immigrant and refugee rights.

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