How to Support an Immigrant who is Detained in Washington State

A Guide for Jefferson and Clallam Counties



JCIRA
Jefferson County
Immigrant Rights Advocates

July 2026

When a loved one is detained by immigration authorities, it can be a confusing and stressful experience. This guide provides practical information and resources to help you take the next steps, but it is not exhaustive and cannot address every situation, especially as the world changes so quickly around us every day.

If you have questions or need guidance, please contact JCIRA's Legal Coordinator at 360-302-6904. We are here to support individuals, families, and friends during this difficult time and help connect you with trusted resources.

We are with you!

JCIRA



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REPORT ICE/CBP ACTION

- Write down any details about what happened as soon as possible.
- **LOCAL SUPPORT - Call JCIRA's Rapid Response Team.** Call or text 360-531-2953. This number is monitored 24/7:

REPORT ICE ACTION!

in Jefferson and Clallam counties

If ICE comes to your home, workplace, or neighborhood, report this action by calling the hotline and send help to those impacted

REPORTE LA MIGRA

en los condados de Jefferson y Clallam

Si la migra llega a su hogar, lugar de trabajo o barrio, reporte esta acción llamando a la línea directa y envíe ayuda a los afectados

360-531-2958

- **STATEWIDE NETWORK SUPPORT - Call the statewide Deportation Defense Hotline** of the **Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network, WAISN,** at 844-724-3737. The hotline is open Monday-Friday, 6 am-6 pm. If they don't answer, you can text them 24/7:



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

JCIRA can help guide you through these next steps if you have any questions or if you need more resources!
Call/text JCIRA's Legal Coordinator at 360-302-6904 or by email at courtney.jcira@gmail.com.

1. **Ask your friend/family member for their A-Number (A#)**
    - This number usually contains 9 digits.
    - ICE will give them this number upon arrest.
    - If your friend/family member filed a previous immigration application, it's likely they will already have an A# on any documents from immigration.
    - If your friend/family member was arrested at the border and allowed to enter, it's likely they will already have an A# in their immigration documents.

2. **Locating someone in detention**
    - **ONLINE -** Use this link to locate your friend/family member if they have been detained by ICE: https://locator.ice.gov/odls/#/search. Search by either A# & country of birth, or person's biographical information.
        - *It may take a couple of days before their information shows up. They are probably in Tacoma at the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC), now renamed the Northwest ICE Processing Center (NWIPC).*
    - ICE has information (including location and contact information) for the detention centers it uses on its website: https://www.ice.gov/detention-facilities

3. **Communication/Visits**
    - **VISITS:** Once you locate your friend/family member using the link above, you may contact the detention facility to schedule calls or visits. Some facilities allow for in-person visitation while others may provide for video-visitation only.

- For the NWIPC in Tacoma, once you find out what pod your friend is housed in, you can find the visiting hours for that pod here: https://www.ice.gov/detain/detention-facilities/northwest-ice-processing-center-nwipc (click on the tab that says "Hours of Visitation")
- Before visiting your friend/family member, call to make sure their pod isn't on lockdown due to COVID, the flu, etc. Call (253) 396-1611, select your language, then press 6 to speak to a live person, then ask for the front desk. It can be easiest to get through if you call at night. If you are a family member, the front desk will also tell you what pod they are in, if you don't know.

- **CALLS:** Each facility has its own process for setting up phone accounts so that your friend/family member can call you. You should contact the facility to ask about setting up a phone account for your loved one.
  - **If your friend/family member is at the NWIPC:**
    - Detainees cannot receive incoming calls. If you need to get in touch with a detainee to leave an urgent message, you must call (253) 396-1611 and leave the detainee's full name, alien registration number and your name and telephone number where you can be reached. The detainee will be given your message.
    - This facility has tablets for detainees to communicate. You cannot call them, they have to call you. You can access information on how to send a non-confidential message at www.gettingout.com or download the app on your phone. Your family member/friend can use the tablets to make regular calls or video calls (which are more expensive).

- **LETTERS:**
  - Only paper is allowed: no objects, rubber bands, or staples.
  - Use this format:

    [Detainee Name] A#[Number]
    NW ICE Processing Center
    1623 East Street, Suite 5
    Tacoma, WA 98421

- **SENDING MONEY:** Similarly, call the facility for information on how to send your loved one money if you want them to have funds to purchase basic necessities or food at the detention center.
  - **If your friend/family member is at the NWIPC:**
    - You can add money to their commissary account online at this website: https://www.accesscorrections.com/send-money, select "Washington" and "GEO Northwest ICE Processing Center, WA" and use their A# to search for them.
      a. Online: accesscorrections.com
      b. By phone: 1-866-345-1884
      c. In person or by mail: with cash or USPS money order
      d. You can also add money to their account in the lobby at NWIPC if you are visiting. There is a kiosk.
    - Commissary money for food is important. The food inside is awful. People like to buy additional food, snacks, hygiene items, stationary and clothing at the commissary.

4. **Build a Family Support Team.** Detention affects entire families. Friends, neighbors, faith communities, and organizations, such as JCIRA, can help.
   - Providing childcare
   - Driving family members to Tacoma detention visits
   - Organizing meal trains
   - Translating documents
   - Helping pay rent and utilities
   - Raising bond and legal defense funds

5. **Advocates for Immigrants in Detention NW (AIDNW)** does a variety of things to try to make life easier for detainees at NWIPC – see their website. They also run a Welcome Center right outside NWIPC to help folks who are released -- either released pending further proceedings or released because they have won their case. https://aidnw.org/

6. **JCIRA'S Legal Defense and Family Support Fund** provides emergency grants when available to immigrant community members in need. Call us at 360-302-6904 to learn more and apply if eligible!

7. **JCIRA's Mental Health support program -** the impacts of having a loved one detained can be hard to deal with alone. JCIRA connects immigrant community members with bilingual and culturally sensitive therapists and counselors as needed. Reach out to us at 360-301-9730 to learn more.

LEGAL REPRESENTATION

The US immigration system does not guarantee you a free lawyer if you cannot afford one.

Please see the lists of lawyers attached to this document, some of whom take detained cases.

- It can be really difficult to find a pro bono (free) lawyer due to high demand. It is a good idea to call several lawyers since not everyone will be available. Paid lawyers charge for consultations, and if you choose to hire them they should give your friend/family member a contract to sign that clearly details what services you are hiring them for.

- **Be careful of fraud.** Notarios are not always lawyers in the United States and cannot necessarily practice law or appear in immigration court. I**n addition, immigration law is complicated so find a practitioner experienced in immigration law.** Please refer to the attached documents about how to locate legitimate legal services.

- If you are unsure about how to proceed, please reach out to JCIRA's Legal Coordinator at 360-302-6904. We are happy to talk to you about how to find a legitimate immigration lawyer.

- **LEGAL ORIENTATION PROGRAM AT NWIPC:** If your friend/family member is at the NWIPC in Tacoma:
    - **Call the Detained Referral line (253) 383-0519 or (877) 814-6444 toll free at the Tacoma office of the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) or email detainedreferrals@nwirp.org.** In your message, include your friend's name and A# if possible.

    - Ask that your friend be signed up for one of NWIRP's Legal Orientation Presentations, which are conducted inside the detention center.
        - The Legal Orientation Presentations inform detainees of their legal rights, legal options, and what to expect when they appear in immigration court. They also provide some individual orientations and workshops to unrepresented detainees to help with their applications for relief from deportation.
        - **It may take several weeks before they are able to do a legal orientation with your friend/family member due to high demand.**

- **Immigration Hearings:** With your family member/friend's A#, go to https://acis.eoir.justice.gov/en/ to look up when their next Immigration Court hearing will be. If at NWDC, the court listed will be Tacoma, inside the NWIPC. You can attend the hearings. Show up early to go through security. Your phone and belongings must be left in a locker.

- **WAISN Fair Fight Bond Fund** can The Fair Fight Bond Fund helps release people from immigration detention, to reunite them with their families and allow them to pursue their immigration cases outside of detention, which increases their chances of a successful case. Apply for support with the cost of Bond at https://waisn.org/fair-fight-bond-fund-application/.

- **Important Documents to Gather**
    - Create a folder containing:
        - Passports
        - Birth certificates
        - Marriage certificates
        - Immigration paperwork and receipts
        - Work permits
        - Copies of IDs
        - Children's school and medical records
        - Contact information for attorneys and emergency caregivers
        - Family Safety Plans
        - Police reports, probable cause affidavits, charging documents, and sentencing documents

Additional resources for understanding your case:

- NIJC Know Your Rights Manual for People in Detention: https://immigrantjustice.org/know-Your-Rights/Detained-Pro-Se-Manual
- Other NIJC "Know Your Rights" resources: https://immigrantjustice.org/KnowYourRights
- Immigration Court self-help materials: https://www.justice.gov/eoir/self-help-materials
- Community Justice Exchange guide to paying bond: https://www.communityjusticeexchange.org/en/resources-all/cebondsguide
- ACLU: What to Do When Interacting with ICE: https://www.aclu.org/we-have-rights

From the Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice:
Private Immigration Attorneys - Western WA (rev. 11.13.25)

Daniel J. Smith & Aaron Vasey	(206) 438-8720	info@danielsmithlawoffice.com
Manuel "Manny" Rios	(206) 970-2781	manuel@riosimmdefense.com
Luz Metz	(206) 583-2745	luz@metzlawgroup.com
Mary Beth Sheehan & Brittan Schwartz	(425) 374-1681	info@syslawfirm.com
Najibullah Hakimi	(360) 390-3936	najib@nhakimlaw.com
Nancy Whitehead	(206) 448-0100	nancy@jfw-law.com
Shara Svendsen	(425) 361-1511	shara@svenlaw.com
Brandon Gillin & Brent Bowden	(425) 937-1130	info@gillinlaw.com
Devin T. Theriot-Orr	(206) 962-5052	devin@opensky.law
Emily L. Durbin	(206) 832-2557	L@ermimmigrationlaw.com
Erin Marie Zipfel	(425) 466-1078	Erin@ZipfelLaw.com
Katerina Ehrlich*	206-235-2122/206-235-1418	katerina@keimmilaw.com
Kati Ortiz	(206) 602-2598	kati@ortizlawoffice.com
Kirstin Kyrka	(206) 607-6175	kristin@hvimm.com
Melissa Campos Castaneda	(253) 874-0147	melissa@avelarlaw.com
Stella E. Dokey	(206) 854-1725	stellad@dokeylawoffices.com
Andrew Oliver	(206) 900-9780	seattle@so-lawfirm.com
Cynthia Irvine	(253) 520-5000	cirvine@hiplawfirm.com
Emily V.T. Headings	(206) 637-8398	emily@headingslaw.com
Maribel Martinez	(206) 384-5553	mmartinez206@gmail.com
Marie Higuera	(206) 267-0234	marie@hvimm.com
Erin Hall	(206) 787-1406	ehall@globaljusticelawgroup.com
Carol L. Edward	(206) 4234238	celaw@seattle-immigration.com
N. N. Mensah	(206) 850-1137	mensaah@comcast.net
Liya Djamilova	(206) 6230118	liya@djamilova.com
Minal Kode Ghassemieh	(206) 351-6874	minalkode@gmail.com
Danielle E. Rosché	(206) 923-8426	Danielle@roscheimmigrationlaw.com
Nicholas Marchi*	(206) 224-0909	nmarchi@carmarlaw.com
Ariel Bailey, W. Africa Comm. Council	(206) 750-5961	arielb@waccofseattle.org
W. Africa Comm. Council	(206) 750-6076	immigration@waccofseattle.com
Anessa Novasio – CAIR-WA	(206) 348-8432	anovasio@cair.com

A list of AILA attorneys who are currently accepting detained cases *(in addition to names with an * above)*

Adam W. Boyd (Gibbs Houston Pauw, Seattle)
Direct: 206-708-8744 Main: 206-682-1080 http://www.gibbshoustonpauw.com

Octavian Jumanca, WestLake Law, PLLC
Seattle: (425)312-3871 https://www.westlakelawpllc.com
Harrison & Pai, PLLC
Bellingham: 360.899.5098 www.harrisonpai.com

THIS LIST CONTINUED ON REVERSE

Patricia Rodriguez, Esq.
386-742-9995 Email: mpatriciarodriguezattorney@gmail.com Website: www.estadosunidosvisas.com

Organizations Providing Legal Help or Referrals (orgs updated March 2025

1. **Northwest Immigrant Rights Project**. 615 2nd Ave Suite 400, Seattle WA 98104. (206) 587-4009. Based in Seattle, with offices Tacoma, Granger & Wenatchee.
https://www.nwirp.org/ Services include immigration legal assistance for detained individuals; domestic violence victims; farm workers; human trafficking survivors; individuals who are not in legal immigration status; individuals with criminal histories, mental disabilities, LGBTQ, and torture survivors. Non-legal services include administrative advocacy (ICE/CBP); Know Your Rights presentations; Legislative advocacy; and referrals to other services.

2. **Colectiva Legal del Pueblo**. 13838 1st Ave S, 2nd Floor, Burien, WA 98169. (206) 931-1514.
https://colectivalegal.org/ Email: info@colectivalegal.org Cases: Adjustment of status, asylum applications, consular processing, employment authorization applications, family-based petitions, naturalization/citizenship, removal hearings, trafficking victims (T visas), Temporary Protected Status (TPS), crime victims (U Visas), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) petitions.

3. **Lutheran Community Services**. Several offices in WA and OR – check website for locations & phone numbers. https://lcsnw.org/our-impact/refugee-and-immigrant-services/ Comprehensive immigration counseling and advocacy services. Immigration counselors are accredited by Board of Immigration Appeals and are qualified to provide immigration legal counsel and assistance with complex immigration forms at a low cost. If warranted, they can provide referral to experienced immigration lawyers.

4. **Nationwide List of pro-bono Legal Service Providers**. State-by-state listing of legal assistance. Executive Office for Immigration Review | List of Pro Bono Legal Service Providers | United States Department of Justice

5. **Refugee and Immigrant Community Organization**. Based in Portland OR and serving SW Washington.
https://irco.org/services/ Provides consultation, representation, and application aid for immigration processes—including refugee/asylee status adjustment, citizenship, naturalization, work permits, green card renewals, asylum, deportation defense and more.

6. **WA Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance**: Working through DSHS Community Service Offices around WA to help refugees and immigrants.
https://www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/office-refugee-and-immigrant-assistance and
https://washington-mass-hub.zendesk.com/hc/en-us

7. **Pueblo Unido PDX**. Based in Portland OR and serving some in WA. (503) 360-0324, ext. 0
http://www.pueblounidopdx.org/ and Legal Navigation | Pueblo Unido PDX Connects people to immigration attorneys, including people who are in removal proceedings, in ICE detention in Tacoma, or who are otherwise seeking to obtain, maintain, or adjust their immigration status.

8. **KIND (Kids In Need of Defense)**. 1201 3rd Ave Suite 4900 Seattle, WA 98101. (206) 359-3266. Email infoseattle@supportkind.org KIND nationwide website: https://supportkind.org/who-we-are/
Attorneys and social services for immigrant youth.

9. **Entre Hermanos**. 1621 S Jackson St #202, Seattle, WA 98144(206) 322-7700.
https://entrehermanos.org/immigration/ Email: info@entrehermanos.org
Free immigration legal consultation clinics for the LGBTQ+ community.

Northwest IMMIGRANT RIGHTS Project

Western Washington Office
615 Second Avenue
Suite 400
Seattle, Washington 98104

PHONE: 206-587-4009 TOLL-FREE: 800-445-5771 FAX: 206-587-4025 WEB: WWW.NWIRP.ORG

Resources for Private Immigration Attorneys and Pro Bono Resources [1]

Finding a Private Attorney:

- American Association of Immigration Lawyers -Washington Chapter: www.ailawa.org/
  - You may also search for an immigration attorney, by city and state, at AILA's immigration lawyer search page: www.ailalawyer.com/
- Washington State Bar Association: www.wsba.org/
  - To check the credentials of the private attorney instructions are here: https://www.atg.wa.gov/immigration-services
- Latino Bar Association of Washington (LBAW): www.lbaw.org/

Statewide list of Nonprofit immigration resources:

- National Immigration Legal Services Directory (For a Full list of Non-profit services): https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/search?state=WA

Nonprofit Immigration Assistance:

- Colectivo Legal del Pueblo: https://colectivalegal.org/
  - (206) 931-1514
- KIAC - Immigration Legal Services
  - (360) 616-0479, http://kitsapiac.org , kiacl@kitsapiac.org
- World Relief
  - (Spokane Office)(509) 321-0327, http://worldreliefspokane.org , ilsspokane@wr.org
  - (Tri-CIty) 509) 734-5477, http://worldrelieftricities.org ,smichael@wr.org
- Catholic Community Services -
  - (360) 416-7095 , http://www.ccsww.org/cils , donnar@ccsww.org
  - (206) 328-6314, http://www.ccsww.org/cils , AbdiJ@ccsww.org
- Lutheran Community Services Northwest: https://lcsnw.org/our-impact/
  - Phone: 206-694-5700
- Neighborhood Legal Clinics program: http://www.kcba.org/kcba/pbs/print_view.aspx?PrintCode=nlc
  - Phone: 206- 267-7070
- Tacoma Community House
  - (253) 383-3951, https://www.tacomacommunityhouse.org , ycosme@tacomacommunityhouse.org-
- The West African Community Council
  - (206) 349-0892, http://www.waccofseattle.com , issan@waccofseattle.com
- Ukrainian Community Center of Washington
  - (425) 430-8229, http://www.uccwa.org
- Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS)
  - (206) 695-7566, http://www.acrs.org
- Latino Bar Association of Washington Clinic:https://www.lbaw.org/clinics/
  - clinics@sgb-law.com

[1] The Northwest Immigrant Rights Project ("NWIRP") does not endorse any of these organizations or attorneys. Additionally, NWIRP does not participate in, nor is it responsible for, the representation decisions or performance of the organizations and/or attorneys. This list of resources are in no particular order.

- LGBTQ LEGAL CLINIC (QLAW): https://www.qlawfoundation.org/lgbtq-legal-clinic.html
  - Phone: 206-235-7235
- KCBA Lawyer Referral: https://www.kcba.org/For-the-Public/Hire-a-Lawyer/Immigration-Law
  - Phone: (206) 267-7010

CLINIC

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
IN IMMIGRATION DETENTION

All people in the United States, ***including undocumented immigrants***, have Constitutional rights and protections. Neither immigration nor the police will assume you want to exercise your rights. You are in charge of asserting them by showing your Know Your Rights card or by telling the officer you are exercising your rights.

If you are arrested and placed in immigration detention, you have rights that protect you.

You have the right to remain silent.

You may be asked where you were born, how you entered the United States, or how long you have been here. You do ***not*** have to answer. If you respond, your responses may be used against you in immigration proceedings.

You have the right to a phone call.

Give your immigration number ("A" number) to family or a trusted friend to help them locate you and find a legal representative for you.

You have the right to refuse to sign documents.

Do not sign anything, such as a voluntary departure or stipulated removal, without talking to a legal representative. If you sign, you could give up your opportunity to try to stay in the United States.

You have the right to legal representation.

The government will not provide you with or pay for a legal representative, but you have the right to hire one. If you don't have a lawyer, ask for a list of free or low-cost legal services.

- You have the right to legal representation during conversations with immigration.
- You have the right to be visited by a legal representative in detention.
- You have the right to legal representation at any immigration hearings before a judge.

You can contact your consulate.

Upon your request, immigration must either allow you to call your consulate or inform the consulate of your arrest. Your consulate may help you obtain a legal representative or free legal advice.

If you are physically responsible for children's care, tell immigration.

Immigration must give you the opportunity to find someone to care for your children. Ideally, you have a safety plan in place that your children and their chosen caregiver were aware of before you were detained. If your children are in school, it will be important for the school to have documents you have signed allowing the chosen caregiver to pick them up from school.

You have the right to request to be released on bond.

Many people who are detained while their case is underway may be eligible for release on bond or with other reporting conditions. If you are denied bond by immigration, you have the right to ask for a bond hearing. An immigration judge can order release and/or lower bond. If you cannot afford the bond, you can contact a bond fund.

There are rules about the standards of the conditions of the detention center.

Detention standards vary by type of facilities, but they cover areas like safety, security, access to medical care, food, water, and sanitation, activities (like visitation), the ability to file a complaint, and overall facility administration and management.

- You have the right to be given a copy of the standards for where you are held.
- You have the right to mental and physical health care regardless of gender, sexuality, or sexual identity.

CLINIC

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS

All people in the United States, ***including undocumented immigrants***, have Constitutional rights and protections. Neither immigration nor the police will assume you want to exercise your rights. You are in charge of asserting them by showing your Know Your Rights card or by telling the officer you are exercising your rights.

If you have been put in removal proceedings, you have rights that protect you.

You must be given a copy of your Notice to Appear (NTA).

An NTA is the document that starts your removal proceedings and tells you why immigration believes you should be removed from the U.S. Be sure to review the NTA with a legal representative.

You have the right to fight your case and have a trial.

If you recently entered the U.S. near the border or you have been deported before, immigration may try to deport you without a hearing or a legal representative. Generally, though, unless you miss a hearing, the government cannot deport you without first giving you a trial (called an individual hearing) where you have the opportunity to fight for permission to stay in the U.S.

You must be given a Hearing Notice for each scheduled hearing.

The Hearing Notice lists the date, time, and place of your scheduled hearings. You can also check for scheduled hearings through the hotline. To use the hotline, you must have your immigration ("A") number. Call **1-800-898-7180** or go to **acis.eoir.justice.gov/en**.

You can be deported if you miss your hearing.

If you are not in court for a scheduled hearing, the judge will likely sign an order of deportation. With limited exceptions, this means you lose your case without a second chance to fight it.

You have the right to legal representation.

You can have a legal representative with you at all immigration hearings. The government will not provide you with free representation. If you do not have a representative, ask for a list of free or low-cost legal services and ask the judge for time to find one. A representative can help show that your reason for being here is a valid defense to being deported under U.S. law.

> ***Note:*** In the U.S., notaries are not authorized to practice immigration law – only attorneys and accredited representatives. **Beware of anyone engaging in unauthorized practice of law!** You have a right to ask the person willing to help you if they are an attorney or fully accredited representative with authorization to practice law and go to immigration court with you.

You must be provided with an interpreter in a language you speak and understand fluently.

It is very important that you understand what is said in court, so if you have a hard time understanding the interpreter, you should tell the judge that.

You have the right to ask for voluntary departure.

You may do this if you do not want to fight your case. You are responsible for buying your ticket home and leaving within 60 days after the judge's order. Talk to a legal representative about the consequences of voluntary departure and deportation.

You have the right to appeal.

Generally, if a judge issues an order you disagree with, you can ask it to be reviewed by a higher authority. Consult a legal representative about deadlines and legal authority for an appeal.

CLINIC

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
BEFORE YOU "SELF DEPORT"

All people in the United States, ***including undocumented immigrants***, have constitutional rights and protections. Neither immigration nor the police will assume you want to exercise your rights. You are in charge of asserting them by showing your Know Your Rights card or by telling the officer you are exercising your rights.

In May 2025, the Trump administration announced a new process for immigrants who choose to leave the United States "voluntarily and permanently." The program is available through a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) app called "CBP Home." Note, however, that departing the United States, especially while already in removal proceedings, can have adverse impacts on your ability to return to the United States and pursue certain forms of relief. Much of the information being provided by the government about this program is misleading or inaccurate. Please exercise caution and understand your rights!

Talk to a qualified person before you download or sign up through the app

If you are interested in leaving the United States, ***DO NOT SIGN UP*** unless you have spoken to an immigration attorney or fully accredited representative about your options. Leaving the United States may make you ineligible for some types of immigration relief. You also may be temporarily or permanently barred from returning to the United States if you leave. If you are in removal proceedings and you depart the United States without receiving voluntary departure from an immigration judge, you may be issued an order of removal in your absence that can make it very difficult to return.
The announcements for this program state that people who do not depart will not be eligible for immigration status. ***However, this is not true in many cases!*** There are ways to obtain immigration status without leaving the United States. If you do qualify for an immigration status here, you may give up the chance to seek this status by leaving.

Self-deportation is not always safe.

ICE claims that you will be able to return to your country safely. The U.S. government, however, cannot guarantee your safety once you leave the country.

The "Self-Deportation" program is not available to all immigrants.

Two groups of immigrants qualify for this program: (1) those who have encountered CBP in the past, and (2) individuals who entered through a country-specific parole program, including programs for Ukrainians, Afghans, Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans. If you are not a member of either of these groups, you will not be eligible for this program. Signing up for this program requires you to give your information to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). If you are not eligible for the program, you may be at even greater risk of ICE enforcement if you sign up through the app.

You have the right to remain in the country while your case is pending.

If you have an immigration case pending before the immigration court or the Board of Immigration Appeals, you will not be removed by ICE. You have the right to remain in the United States while your case is pending. If you leave the United States before your case is complete, an immigration judge may order you deported. This could make it more difficult to return to the United States.

From the Washington State Office of the Attorney General:

Locating Legitimate Services

To find a licensed attorney or federally authorized professional who specializes in immigration law, contact these organizations for information:

- American Association of Immigration Lawyers: www.aila.org
  - You may also search for an immigration attorney, by city and state, at AILA's immigration lawyer search page: www.ailalawyer.com/
- Latino Bar Association of Washington (LBAW): www.lbaw.org/
- Washington State Bar Association: www.wsba.org/
- The Northwest Immigrant Rights Project provides legal services to immigrants and refugees and offers workshops for those who want to know if they are qualified to petition for their family members to get legal status in the U.S. Information is available online at www.nwirp.org. Western Washington residents may call 800-445-5771 or 206-587-4009. In Eastern or Central Washington, call 888-756-3641. Calls are answered on weekdays; ask for the Citizenship Unit.
- Your county bar association

Only licensed attorneys and federally authorized practitioners can provide legal advice on immigration matters.

Locating Legitimate Services
Checking Credentials
Reporting Fraud
Washington State Law
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Notario Warning
Immigration Services brochure

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Checking Credentials

Make sure anyone who submits an immigration petition on your behalf is authorized to provide immigration-related services before you pay any money or turn over personal information.

- If a person claims to be a lawyer, ask to see his or her bar license. A real lawyer would not be offended by this request.
- Conduct a "lawyer search" on the Washington State Bar Association's website at www.wsba.org to see if a person is licensed to practice law in Washington.
- If a person is licensed to practice law in another state, make sure to check that state's registry of licensed attorneys.
- To check if a person or organization is authorized under federal law to provide immigration services, search www.justice.gov/eoir/ra/raroster.htm.

Do not trust other so-called "immigration assistants," "immigration consultants" or *notarios* with legal matters. Such individuals may claim to be intimately familiar with immigration law, but they are not authorized to provide legal advice or assist others in preparing documents related to an immigration matter. And they haven't received any sort of specialized training to prepare them to advise others in immigration cases.

While these individuals may claim to be a less-expensive alternative to a lawyer, having an unskilled practitioner prepare your immigration forms or advise you on the complicated aspects of immigration can cost you dearly in the end. You may have to hire a lawyer later to undo the mess the "immigration assistant" caused in the first place.

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Reporting Fraud

Report immigration scams to the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov/complaint.

The Washington Attorney General's Consumer Resource Center accepts complaints about immigration scams and the unauthorized practice of law. Victims may file a complaint online at www.atg.wa.gov or call 1-800-551-4636 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays. Written complaints can be filed in Spanish at www.atg.wa.gov/en-espanol.

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State Law

Washington state law protects consumers from immigration-related fraud. The Immigration Services Fraud Prevention Act prohibits anyone from engaging in the unauthorized practice of law in an immigration matter, unless that person is a licensed attorney or is otherwise authorized to provide legal services under federal immigration law.

The law, which is designed to protect consumers from the deceptive business practices, prohibits non-lawyers and unauthorized individuals from engaging in several other activities, such as:

- Selecting or assisting another in selecting an immigration-related government form;
- Advising another as to his or her answers on an immigration-related government form;
- Soliciting to prepare documents for another for submission in a judicial or administrative immigration proceeding;
- Charging a fee for referring another to a person licensed to practice law;
- Drafting or completing legal documents affecting the rights of another in an immigration matter;
- Referring to oneself as an "immigration assistant," "immigration consultant," "immigration specialist," or any other term in any language (including the Spanish term notario público), that conveys or implies that the person possesses professional legal skills in the area of immigration law.

While the law does not prohibit the provision of translation services, the law does prohibit non-lawyers and other unauthorized persons from advising customers as to their answers on immigration forms.

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Additional Resources

- Federal Trade Commission education materials in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Creole, Vietnamese and Arabic explain how to avoid and report immigration services fraud, and how to find legitimate no-cost or low-cost immigration advice from authorized providers. Visit www.ftc.gov/immigration for more information.
- UCSIS provides materials in English and 13 other languages at www.uscis.gov/avoidscams. Resources are also available at www.uscis.gov/citizenship.
- Free information for immigrants and refugees can be found online at www.washingtonlawhelp.org.

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Don't be Deceived by a *Notario Público*!

In Washington and around the country, people advertising immigration services use the title *notario público* on business cards and in their business dealings to deceive consumers into thinking that they have special legal training in immigration affairs. However, a *notario público* is not a lawyer and is not authorized under state or federal law to provide you with legal assistance in your immigration case.

In several Latin American countries, the term *notario público* refers to an individual who is an attorney and has received extensive legal training over the course of several years.

In the United States, a "notary public" is an individual who has the authority to administer an oath or affirmation or witness the signing of papers. The title is relatively simple to obtain.

Many people use this linguistic accident to deceive Spanish-speaking customers into thinking that they are experts in immigration law. Don't be deceived by a person described as a *notario* or *notario público*. He or she is probably just a "notary public" with no legal skills whatsoever.

For more information about *notarios* and their illegal tactics, including information on how to spot a fraudulent immigration services provider, visit the American Immigration Lawyers Association's website at www.stopnotariofraud.com.

AILA AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

Protect Yourself from Immigration Scams

Immigration Scam Warning: How to Stay Safe and Protect Your Case

Scammers are impersonating real immigration lawyers and nonprofit organizations — especially on Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp. They may use logos, photos, and names of trusted organizations like Catholic Charities or well-known law firms. These scams have caused many people to lose thousands of dollars and, in some cases, harm their immigration cases.

Here's how to protect yourself and your family.

How Scammers Operate

- They pretend to be lawyers or accredited representatives.
- They use fake Facebook pages, WhatsApp numbers, or paid ads.
- They promise fast approvals or "guaranteed results."
- They sometimes charge a lot ($5,000–$30,000).
- They may file nothing, file false information, or hold fake "court hearings" online.
- It is fraud if the "judge" tells you to pay money to get the immigration status you want.
- After the scammers get what they want, they usually disappear.

How to Check if Someone Is Real

Before you pay anyone:

1. **Verify the person AND the organization.**
   Finding a real lawyer from an approved and vetted source is safer. Some sources for lawyer listings are:
   - **AILA Lawyer Search:** www.ailalawyer.com
   - **CLINIC Affiliate Directory:** www.cliniclegal.org/find-legal-help/affiliates/directory
   - **Immigration Advocates Network:** https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/legaldirectory
2. **Make sure the person actually works where they say they work.**
   Look up the organization independently — don't rely on a link they send you.
3. **Be careful with anything advertised on Facebook, Instagram, or WhatsApp.**
   Most scams are happening there.
4. **Get a written agreement or receipt.**
   Real legal providers offer documentation.
5. **Never pay through gift cards, cash apps, or cryptocurrency.**

If You Think You've Been Scammed

You can report it — and you may be able to fix your case. Save all messages, receipts, and screenshots.

Report scams to:

- **EOIR Fraud Prevention Program:** www.justice.gov/eoir/fraud-and-abuse-prevention-program
- **Federal Trade Commission:** www.reportfraud.ftc.gov
- **USCIS Tip Form:** www.uscis.gov/avoid-scams/report-immigration-scams
- **Your State Attorney General**
- **Your local or state bar association**

If someone used a lawyer's or organization's name, tell them right away.

Get Legitimate Legal Help

Find trusted immigration legal assistance through:

- AILA Immigration Lawyer Search
- CLINIC Affiliates
- Immigration Advocates Network
- National Association of Consumer Advocates (consumer protection attorneys): www.consumeradvocates.org/find-an-attorney

Protect your money. Protect your case. Always confirm that your legal helper is real.

This flyer is intended for general information purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. You should not act or rely on any information in this flyer without seeking the advice of a competent, licensed immigration attorney. If you do not have an immigration attorney, you may find a licensed one at www.ailalawyer.com.

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Flyer last updated on February 10th, 2026.

AILA is the national bar association of immigration lawyers comprised of over 15,000 members located in every state of the United States and worldwide.