

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Matthew B. Durrant
Utah Supreme Court
Chair, Utah Judicial Council

February 3, 2025

Ronald B. Gordon, Jr.
State Court Administrator
Neira Siaperas
Deputy State Court Administrator

MEMORANDUM

TO: Judicial officers and employees

FROM: Matthew B. Durrant, Chief Justice
Ron Gordon, State Court Administrator

RE: Immigration and Customs Enforcement

As you likely know, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency is enhancing their immigration enforcement efforts. ICE conducts enforcement efforts in many locations, including in and around courthouses. We recognize and understand that this may be concerning for some judicial officers and employees and that these issues can evoke strong personal feelings. The judiciary values the well-being of all judicial officers and employees and remains committed to fostering a professional and respectful workplace. It is also essential that we uphold the judiciary's role as a neutral and impartial institution. As court employees and judicial officers, we must ensure that our actions support public confidence in the independence of the judicial system. Below are answers to some commonly asked questions from court employees.

Can the courts prohibit ICE from making arrests in or around courthouses?

No. The courts do not have the power to prevent ICE from conducting lawful enforcement actions in or around courthouses and may not interfere with ICE agents or their enforcement plans or actions.

Can judges, court employees, or contractors warn patrons of pending ICE plans?

No. No one in the courts, including independent contractors when acting in their capacity as contractors for the Judiciary, may warn court patrons of pending ICE plans or discourage court patrons from appearing in court in order to help them avoid apprehension by ICE. We may not inform individuals or groups that ICE is or will be present in a courthouse on a particular day.

The mission of the Utah judiciary is to provide an open, fair,
efficient, and independent system for the advancement of justice under the law.

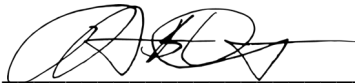
This includes communicating the presence of ICE or the plans of ICE through email, text, phone, photograph or any other method unless required for official court business.

What information or services can the courts provide to court patrons who may be subject to arrest and deportation?

Court employees and contractors when acting in their capacity as contractors for the Judiciary may not provide immigration-related information or services to court patrons. The courts may only provide the same information and services that the courts provide to all other court patrons.

Do the courts partner with ICE?

No. If we are made aware of a planned arrest, we ask ICE to coordinate with security personnel to ensure the arrest happens safely and securely in non-public areas of the courthouse. However, we cannot require them to do so.



Matthew B. Durrant
Chief Justice



Ronald B. Gordon, Jr.
State Court Administrator