

# Immigration Enforcement: Administrative vs. Judicial Warrants

Immigration agents may show you a judicial warrant or an administrative warrant. There is a critical difference between the two.

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If ICE knocks on your front door, don't open it. Ask to see a warrant.

Agents may show you a judicial warrant issued by a court. Or they might have an administrative warrant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

**There's a critical difference between the two.**

To enter and search your house or non-public areas of a business—like a restaurant kitchen—ICE needs a valid judicial warrant issued by a court and signed by a judge, like the one below.

Here's what to look for:

- At the top, it says Superior Court of California or U.S. District Court.
- Make sure the address is correct, and the person named on the warrant lives at the home.
- Check the date and signature.

AO 93 (Rev. 11/13) Search and Seizure Warrant

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
for the

In the Matter of the Search of )  
(Briefly describe the property to be searched )  
or identify the person by name and address ) Case No. \_\_\_\_\_ )

**SEARCH AND SEIZURE WARRANT**

To: Any authorized law enforcement officer

An application by a federal law enforcement officer or an attorney for the government requests the search of the following person or property located in the \_\_\_\_\_ District of \_\_\_\_\_  
*(identify the person or describe the property to be searched and give its location):*

I find that the affidavit(s), or any recorded testimony, establish probable cause to search and seize the person or property described above, and that such search will reveal *(identify the person or describe the property to be seized):*

**YOU ARE COMMANDED** to execute this warrant on or before \_\_\_\_\_ *(not to exceed 14 days)*  
 in the daytime 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.  at any time in the day or night because good cause has been established.

Unless delayed notice is authorized below, you must give a copy of the warrant and a receipt for the property taken to the person from whom, or from whose premises, the property was taken, or leave the copy and receipt at the place where the property was taken.

The officer executing this warrant, or an officer present during the execution of the warrant, must prepare an inventory as required by law and promptly return this warrant and inventory to \_\_\_\_\_  
*(United States Magistrate Judge)*

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3103a(b), I find that immediate notification may have an adverse result listed in 18 U.S.C. § 2705 (except for delay of trial), and authorize the officer executing this warrant to delay notice to the person who, or whose property, will be searched or seized *(check the appropriate box)*  
 for \_\_\_\_\_ days *(not to exceed 30)*  until, the facts justifying, the later specific date of \_\_\_\_\_

Date and time issued: \_\_\_\_\_  
City and state: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Judge's signature*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name and title*

Judicial search warrant issued by a U.S. District Court

An administrative arrest warrant or a warrant of removal, seen below, says U.S. Department of Homeland Security. **An administrative warrant does not grant ICE permission to enter or search your house.**

If ICE agents show you an administrative warrant, you don't have to let them in. If they force their way in, say you don't consent, but don't try to stop them.

And don't answer any questions. **Remember, in any encounter with ICE or other federal immigration officers, you always have the right to remain silent.**

Administrative warrant issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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