

Staying Safe Together: Essential Plans and Resources for Our Community

ParentChild+ prioritizes the safety of our community first. The recommendations below are intended to provide some knowledge and resources so that we can all stay safe together.

Make a Plan

Everyone should have a plan during an emergency. A Preparedness or Safety Plan helps keep people safe during a crisis. These plans can include:

- Actions to take in an emergency,
- Who to contact,
- Who should have custody of the children if the parents are unavailable,
- How to prepare for different scenarios, and
- Where important documents are kept.

For Families and Providers:

Immigrant families need to think ahead and establish concrete plans for the immigration status-related emergencies that may arise.

Site staff should engage in discussions with families and home-based child care providers about plans for their children. Share those plans with all primary caregivers, including relatives or close friends. If ELSs or providers are willing, they can be included in the Preparedness Plan and should request a copy of it.

Links to Plan Templates:

- [ILRC - Family Preparedness Plan](#)
- [Immigrants' Rights Action – Family Preparedness Plan](#)
- [Immi - Family Safety Plan](#)

For ELSs and other Site Staff:

Discuss your Staff Safety Plan as a team. Some things to consider when making your plan:

- Phone tree: who will contact your site Coordinator, your agency, your own family, and other allies who can provide support and assist in watching ICE from outside a family's home. Be sure that everyone has all the cell phone numbers they may need to call/text in case of an emergency.
- Scheduling: You may be late or need to cancel visits for the day while you wait for ICE to leave. How will you notify the people who need to know, and who will notify them?
- Identification: field staff should be able to show identification with their affiliation either with ParentChild+ or your agency.

What to Do if ICE Comes to the Door: Guidelines for ELSs

Please review this in team meetings. ELSs should understand how to handle these situations and how to effectively support families with the information provided. It is important to note that

much of this advice is also applicable for families to follow if ICE comes to their door and the ELS is not present:

- Remain calm and work with the parents to ensure children are safe and remain as calm as possible.
- Families should not open the door unless a warrant is presented. (Families can request the warrant be presented under the door or through a window.) Immigration officers can only enter your home if they have a warrant signed by a judge.
- Inform the family that they should not answer any questions. ICE can use anything someone says against them in an immigration case, so all should claim the right to remain silent.
- The family members can calmly say:
 - ***“I do not consent to your entry.”***
 - ***“I plead my right under the 5th Amendment to remain silent.”***
 - ***“I will not answer any questions without my attorney present.”***
- Help the family to take pictures of any documents or warrants ICE may produce and help them identify an attorney, immigrant law organization, etc. to review the documents before they let anyone into the home or speak to them.
- Inform the family that they should not sign anything ICE gives them without first obtaining legal advice.
- Help parents communicate with other family members who are not currently at home. Refer to the family’s Preparedness Plan. Trusted friends or family members should have the family’s case # in case they need to find you in the ICE system.
- Plan to stay at home with the family until ICE leaves the location. This may be for significantly more time than you anticipate.
- Support the families’ access to legal advice and other supportive services.

Resource Links:

Legal resources or organizations with whom families can connect for immigration support:

- [National Immigration Legal Services Directory](#)
- [iAmerica Legal Help](#)
- [Clinic Legal - Social Services + Legal Support Directory](#)

Additional supports for families and children dealing with an ICE encounter:

- [PBS: Resources for Families to Help Children Dealing with Trauma](#)
- [Zero to Three: Resources for Stress and Trauma](#)