



Safe Families

An Emergency Guide for Immigrants



Cover illustration: Lili M.

FREE

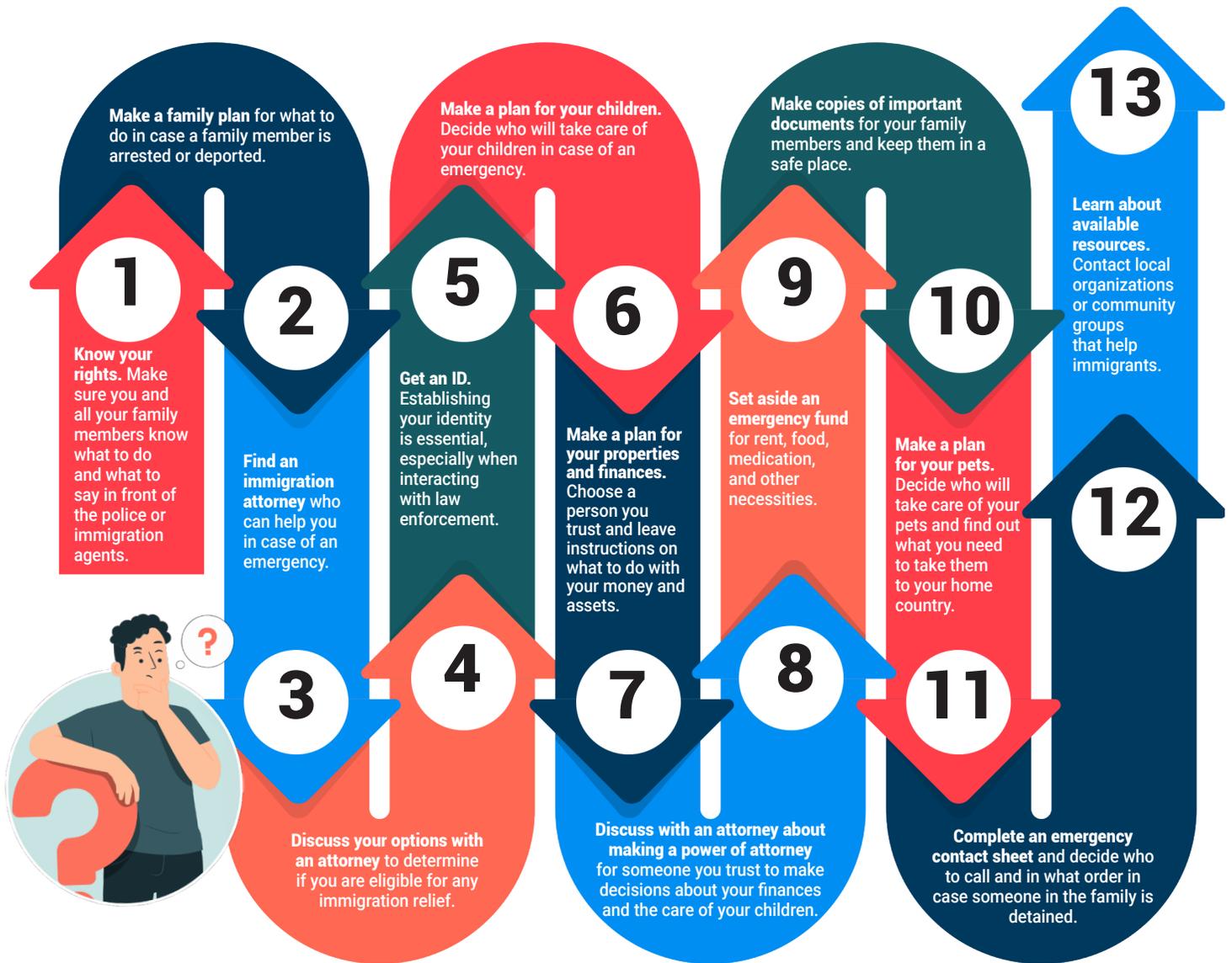
FAMILY PLANNING GUIDE FOR IMMIGRATION EMERGENCIES

Are you prepared?

This guide is intended to help immigrant families prepare for the possibility that a family member may be unexpectedly separated from their home due to their immigration status.



FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO BE PREPARED



By following these steps, you'll be much better prepared in the event of an emergency. On the following pages you will find more detailed information on how to complete these steps and helpful forms to fill out.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Regardless of your immigration status, you have rights that are guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. In this section, you can learn more about your rights, how to exercise them, and what to do in the event of any encounter with law enforcement or immigration officials.

These are recommendations and not legal advice! Seek advice from an attorney if you have questions.

IF YOU ARE STOPPED BY THE POLICE OR ICE IN PUBLIC

- Stay calm. Do not run, argue, resist, or obstruct the officers.
- Keep your hands up where the officers can see them.
- Do not lie or hand over false documents.
- You have the right to remain silent. If you want to exercise that right, say it out loud.
- You do not have to consent to a search of you or your belongings, but the police may pat your clothes if they suspect you have a weapon.
- You do not have to answer questions about where you were born, whether you are a U.S. citizen, or how you entered the country.



IF YOU ARE PULLED OVER BY POLICE OR ICE IN A VEHICLE

- Pull over in a safe place as quickly as possible. Turn off the engine, turn on the interior light, open the window partially and place your hands on the steering wheel.
- If requested by the police, show your driver's license, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance.
- The police may also ask you to write down your name and address or the name and address of the owner of the vehicle, however, you do not have to answer questions about your immigration status.

Both the driver and passengers have the right to remain silent.

- If you are a passenger, you can ask if you are free to leave. If yes, you may leave calmly.
- If an immigration officer asks you to search the interior of your vehicle, you can refuse. However, the police can search it without your consent only if there is clearly visible evidence of a crime.

TIPS FOR DRIVERS

- If you don't have a driver's license, do not drive. Try to ride with someone who has a license, take a taxi, or use public transportation
- If you must drive, make sure that the license plates and registration, insurance and all vehicle documents are in order and current
- Check that your vehicle does not have a broken light or any damage that could cause it to be stopped
- Respect traffic signs and speed limits
- If you drink, don't drive! Driving While Impaired is a felony



DO I NEED TO IDENTIFY MYSELF?

North Carolina law does not require you to provide your name or other identifying information to the police if you are on the street, at home, or traveling as a passenger in a vehicle. However, if you are the driver, you are required to show your driver's license or ID to the police.

Depending on the circumstances, if you refuse to identify with local or state police (not ICE) you could be charged with resisting, delaying, or obstructing an officer in the performance of their duties.

IF POLICE OR ICE COME TO YOUR HOME

- Stay calm and keep the door closed.
- Ask if they are immigration agents and what they are there for. You can say: **"Who are you? Are you immigration officers? Why are you here?"**
- Ask officers to show you their badge or ID through the window or peephole on the door.

• Ask if they have a court order signed by a judge. If they say yes, ask them to slide it under the door or show it to you through a window so you can inspect it.

• Do not open the door unless ICE shows a search or arrest warrant signed by a judge in the name of a person living in your home. If you are not shown a warrant like that, keep the door closed. Say, **"I don't consent to you coming into my house."**

• If agents force their way in, do not resist. You can say, "I don't consent to your entry or search of my house. I am exercising my right to remain silent. I want to speak to an attorney as soon as possible."

• **If you are arrested, you have the right to remain silent, even if the officers have a warrant signed by a judge.**

Judge Order

Administrative Order (ICE)

Do not lie or present any false documents. Do not sign anything without first talking to a lawyer.

!

PLEASE NOTE:

- You don't have to let the police or ICE come into your home unless they have a warrant signed by a judge that explicitly allows them access to your home.
- ICE administrative orders or an order of removal or deportation (Form I-205) do not allow officers to enter your home without your consent.

• See the difference between a court order signed by a judge and an ICE administrative order with these examples.

• If you are on probation, the police can enter your home and search you.



HAVE A "RED CARD"

The Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) created these Red Cards to help non-English speaking immigrants exercise their rights when interacting with immigration agents. If possible, keep a copy of these cards with you to give it to the officers under the door if they come to your home.

You can print cards or order copies on the following page:
www.ilrc.org/red-cards-tarjetas-rojas

- I do not wish to speak with you, answer your questions, or sign or hand you any documents based on my 5th Amendment rights under the U.S. Constitution.
 - I do not give you permission to enter my home based on my 4th Amendment rights under the U.S. Constitution unless you have a warrant to enter, signed by a judge or magistrate with my name on it that you slide under the door.
 - I do not give you permission to search any of my belongings based on my 4th Amendment rights.
 - I choose to exercise my constitutional rights.

IF POLICE OR ICE SHOW UP AT YOUR WORK PLACE

- Stay calm and assess the situation.
- Ask if you can go. If they say yes, leave calmly, don't run.
- If you are arrested, you have the right to remain silent until you speak with your attorney.
- You don't have to answer questions about your immigration status, such as where you were born, whether you are a citizen, or how you entered the country.
- You have the right to refuse to consent to be searched.
- Do not sign anything or hand over false documents.



WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE ARRESTED

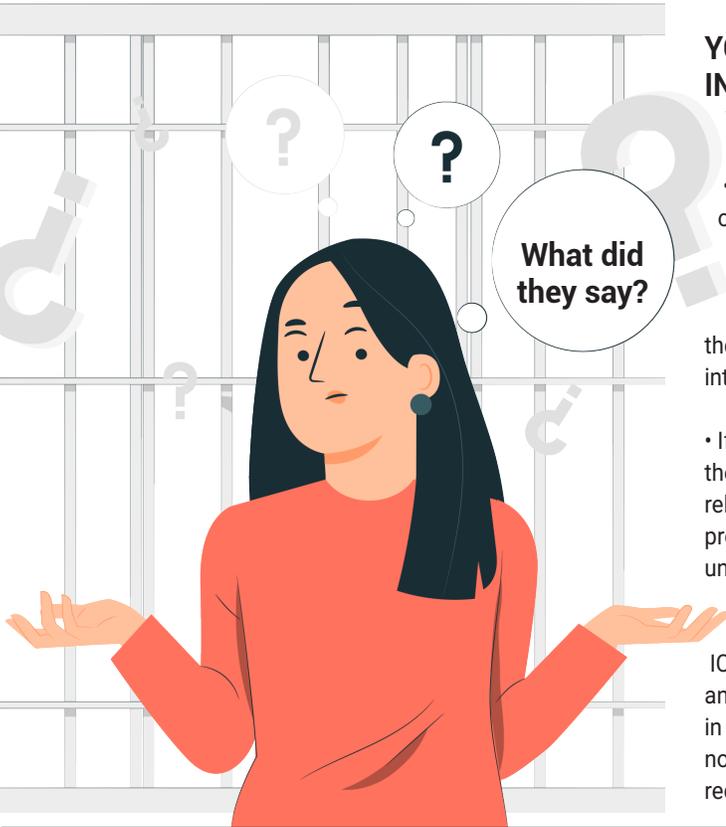
- Say you want to remain silent and **ask for an attorney**. Do not give explanations or excuses.
- Do not say anything, sign anything, or make any decisions without a lawyer.
- If the police arrest you, you have the right to make a local phone call. The police cannot hear you when you call your lawyer.
- If you are arrested by ICE, you have the right to contact your consulate or to ask an officer to notify your consulate about your detention.
- While you are in jail, an immigration agent may visit you. **Do not answer questions or sign anything before speaking with an attorney!**
- Read all documents you are given completely. If you do not understand or cannot read them, tell the officer that you need an interpreter.
- Do not discuss your immigration status with anyone other than your attorney.



IF YOU ARE ASKED ABOUT YOUR IMMIGRATION STATUS

- You have the right to remain silent and do not have to discuss your immigration or citizenship status with police, immigration agents, or other officials. Anything you say to an officer can be used against you in immigration court.
- Do not lie about your status or provide false documents.
- If you are not a U.S. citizen but have or are in the process of obtaining immigration status and an immigration officer asks for your immigration documents, you must show them if you have them with you.
- If an immigration officer wants to search you or your belongings, you have the right to say no. They do not have the right to search you without your consent or having a probable cause.
- If you are over 18 years old, carry your documents with you at all times. If you do not have them, tell the officer that you want to remain silent or that you want to consult with an attorney before answering any questions.





YOUR RIGHT TO INTERPRETATION WITH ICE

- If you are in ICE custody, and one of their agents contacts you about your rights or legal proceedings, and you do not fully understand English, they must provide you with an interpreter at no cost.
- If they do not have an interpreter, they must give you documentation related to your legal rights and procedures in a language you can understand.
- If you do not understand the ICE officer, you must say it clearly and request for an interpreter in your preferred language at no cost to you in situations that require communication about

understanding your rights, procedures, or outcomes.

- Before signing any document, make sure the document is available in your language or ask the officer serving it to read it in your language. Do not sign anything without fully understanding its contents.

• ICE is not required to provide you with an interpreter in two situations:

1. Private conversations with your attorney
2. Personal communications unrelated to legal or procedural matters.

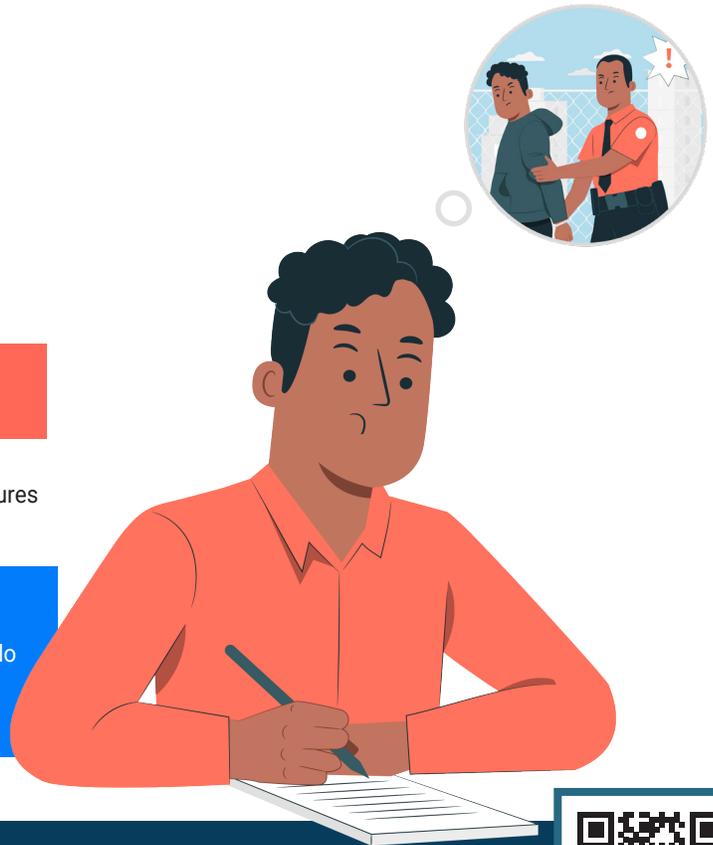
IF YOU BELIEVE YOUR RIGHTS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED

- Write down everything you remember, including the officers' names or badges, license plates or numbers of their vehicles or patrol cars, which agency the officers belonged to, and any other details.

- Get contact information of any witnesses.

- If you are injured, seek medical attention immediately and take pictures of your injuries.

- You can file a written complaint with the agency's Internal Affairs Division or the Civilian Complaints Board. In most cases, you can do it anonymously if you wish.



For more information, visit the [WeHaveRights.us](https://www.ice.dhs.gov/wehave-rights) page, where you will find detailed guidance, videos, and other tools to understand your rights and how to deal with encounters with law enforcement and ICE.



HB10 AND COOPERATION BETWEEN ICE AND NC SHERIFFS

A new North Carolina law requires state sheriffs to notify Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) when they are unable to determine the immigration status of individuals detained for certain crimes.

The legislation, known as HB 10 after the name of the original bill, went into effect on Dec. 1, 2024, and only applies to arrests made after that date.



WHAT DOES THE LAW DO?

1. Requires sheriffs to verify the immigration status of individuals in their custody who have been arrested for certain serious crimes, including possession of controlled substances, rape and other sex crimes, felony or misdemeanor assaults, gang-related offenses, and violations of protective orders related to domestic violence. If immigration status cannot be determined, the sheriff must consult ICE.
2. Requires sheriffs to comply with ALL detainers issued by ICE. This is the most problematic provision because it could apply to people detained for any reason, including a traffic violation.
3. Under both provisions, the sheriff is required to bring the individual before a magistrate and obtain a court order to hold them in custody for up to 48 hours from the time the ICE detainer was received.



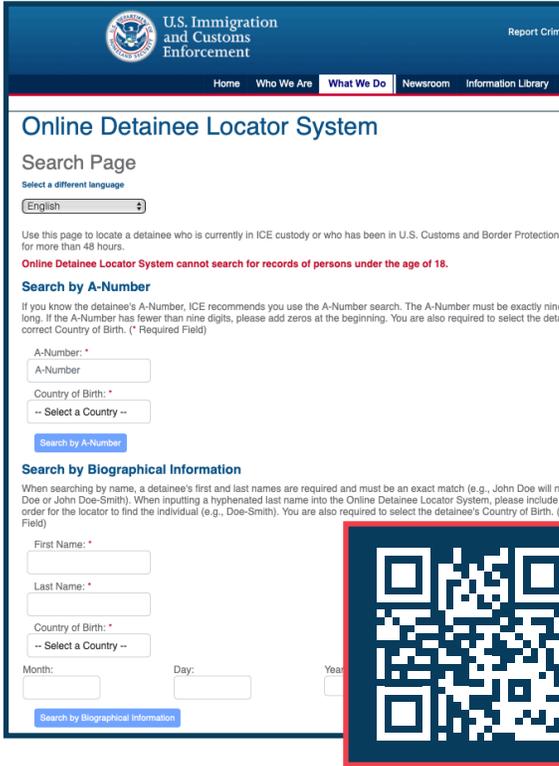
WHAT DOES THE LAW NOT DO?

- It does NOT apply anywhere outside of a jail. For example, police officers have no duty under HB 10 when they stop people driving or walking on the street, or when responding to calls or reports about crimes.
- It does NOT allow police to discriminate against you because of your race. Local or state law enforcement officers cannot stop you based on the color of your skin or because of suspicions about your immigration status.
- It does NOT allow police officers to stop you for immigration reasons. Local and state police can only arrest you if they believe you have committed a crime based on specific facts.

If you believe you have been stopped or discriminated by police because of your race, there are organizations you can contact for help, such as the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina. To request assistance, please fill out the form by scanning this code:



WHAT TO DO IF A LOVED ONE IS DETAINED BY ICE



If Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detains your loved one in or around North Carolina, they will most likely be detained in a local jail and then transferred to the Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Georgia.

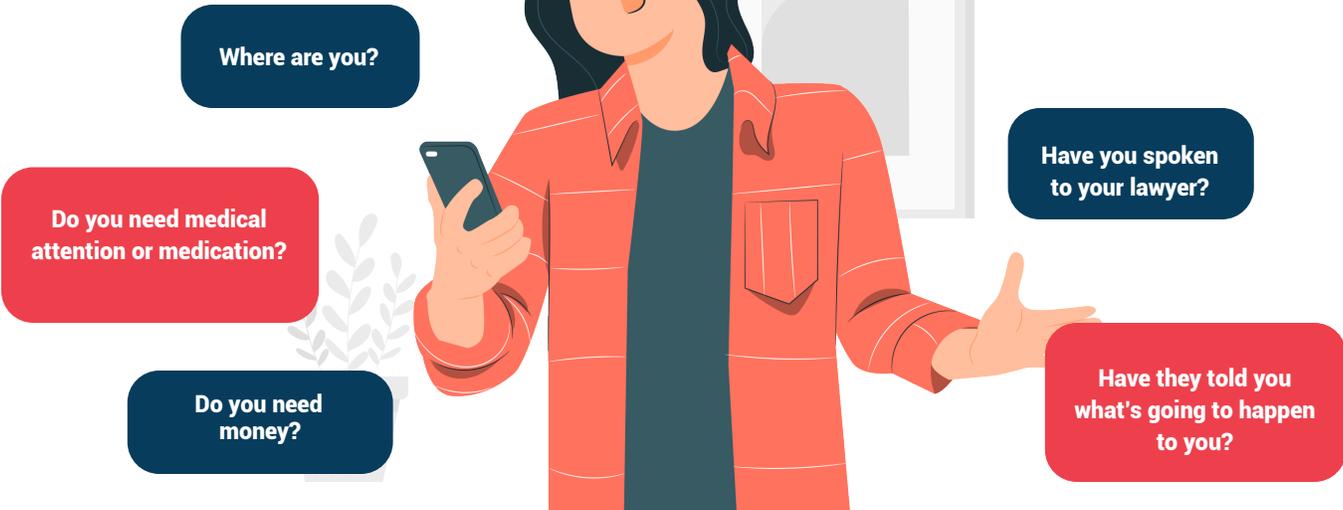
HOW TO LOCATE YOUR LOVED ONE?

- To confirm that your loved one is under immigration custody and find out where he or she is, use the ICE locator at: locator.ice.gov
- To do the search you will need the detainee's alien number or "A Number" and their country of origin, or you can also search using their first name, surname, country, and date of birth.
- You can also call the ICE information line Monday through Friday at **1-888-351-4024**
- If someone is in local police custody, you can call your county jail number to get information about the detainee. (Some local jails also have online locator tools.)

If your family member is detained at the Stewart Detention Center, you can send money online by creating an account on www.ConnectNetwork.com or through Western Union www.westernunion.com/corrections or by phone at 1-800-634-3422

IF YOUR LOVED ONE CALLS YOU ON THE PHONE

If your loved one calls you while in police custody or from a detention center, you should ask the following questions and be sure to take notes of the answers carefully and in as much detail as possible:



FIND A LAWYER

- The U.S. government does not provide attorneys for immigrants facing deportation.
- If you or someone in your family is at risk of being detained and deported by ICE, it is advisable to contact an immigration attorney **ahead of time** and make sure they will be able to represent you in case of an emergency.

- It is advisable to memorize or bring with you the name and telephone number of your attorney, and make sure that your family has that information.
- If you don't have an attorney and your loved one is detained, we recommend that you find an immigration attorney as soon as possible.
- You can see more about where to find an attorney on page 19.



CONTACT AN IMMIGRANT RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

North Carolina is home to many immigrants and there are many organizations and community groups throughout the state that advocate for them and their rights.

We encourage you to find an

organization in your area to connect with and access resources, information, support, and more.

To find a list of some of these organizations, check out El Pueblo's resource guide at:

elpueblo.org/directorio-de-recursos/



CONTACT YOUR CONSULATE

Foreign consulates in the United States offer documentation, assistance, and protection services to citizens of their home countries. While they cannot intervene in judicial proceedings, they can ensure that the rights of their citizens detained by U.S. authorities are respected. Some of them even offer legal advice.

! If you have a pending asylum application, we recommend that you do not visit your consulate without first consulting with your attorney about the risks to your immigration case.

CONSULATES IN NORTH CAROLINA:

Guatemala
 6050 Six Forks Rd, Raleigh, NC 27609
 (984)-200-1601
citaconsularguatemala.us/raleigh-carolina-del-norte/

El Salvador
 1520 West Boulevard, Suite C
 Charlotte, NC 28208
 (888) 301-1130
consuladosalvador.com/charlotte

Honduras
 5820 E W.T. Harris Blvd Suite 3118-G/J,
 Charlotte, NC 28215
 (980) 339-7850
citaconsularhn.com/charlotte/

México
 431 Raleigh View Rd, Raleigh, NC
 (919) 615-3653
 (919) 615-3653 (Legal Advice)
consulmex.sre.gob.mx/raleigh/

If your country does not have a consulate in North Carolina, find your embassy's website to locate the nearest consulate by scanning the QR code:



GET AN ID

Establishing identity is essential, but it remains a significant challenge for many immigrants who are ineligible to obtain official government-issued identification documents due to their immigration status.

However, there are alternative IDs that can provide similar benefits to official ones, helping immigrants interact with their

communities and local law enforcement. This is especially important considering the anti-immigrant laws in place in North Carolina.

In this section you will find some of the most common forms of identification available in North Carolina and how to obtain them.

1. DRIVER'S LICENSE AND STATE ID

Driver's licenses and state non-driver IDs issued by the North Carolina DMV are the most common forms of official identification accepted by state authorities. Although immigrants without status are not eligible to obtain these documents, those who have temporary or limited immigration status, such as a student visa, work visa, DACA, or TPS, can.

However, in that case, keep in mind that the IDs will expire on the same date as your immigration status.

You can view the requirements for obtaining a license or state ID on the DMV website: www.ncdot.gov/dmv

If you are eligible for a driver's license, but do not speak English, you can request an interpreter to take the test. Learn more here: www.ncdot.gov/dmv/license-id/driver-licenses/Pages/interpreter-services.aspx



2. FOREIGN PASSPORTS

For many undocumented immigrants, a foreign passport issued by their home country is the only form of identification available to them.

Their requirements depend on each country, but in general, you need proof of your identity, proof of your nationality, and proof of your current residence in the United States.

See [page 9](#) for a list of consulates in North Carolina.

In North Carolina, you can present your current foreign passport as an identification document to government officials.

However, depending on your immigration status, it is best to evaluate the risks with an immigration attorney.



3. CONSULAR DOCUMENTS AND FOREIGN IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Consular identification cards, such as the Mexican Matricula Consular, are issued by foreign consulates to their citizens living in the United States, regardless of their immigration status.

Possession of a consular ID does not confer legal status in the United States, nor does it grant you any other immigration benefits.



IMAGE: MEXICAN CONSULATE | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

!

In North Carolina, government officials are prohibited from accepting foreign documents “issued by a consulate or embassy,” such as a Matricula Consular, to determine a person’s identity or residency.

However, all agencies can accept a foreign passport as a valid identification.

If you have a current foreign ID that has not been issued by a consulate, such as a foreign voter ID card, foreign driver’s license, foreign military ID, or foreign national ID, you may continue to use those types of IDs and they may be accepted by government officials for identification purposes depending on the circumstances.



4. COMMUNITY IDS

Immigrants’ ineligible for official government-issued IDs can obtain community ID cards issued by local organizations, such as the **FaithAction ID**, or **municipal IDs**.

These community documents may be accepted as an identification tool by certain local agencies or law enforcement under specific agreements but may not be used as valid identification for official purposes.

However, law enforcement officers anywhere in the state could accept community IDs as proof of identity or residency if it is the only proof available to them.

If this is the only form of identification you have, it is important to understand its limitations and seek legal counsel as needed.

• If you want to get the FaithAction ID in Wake County, visit El Pueblo’s website at: elpueblo.org/communityactionid/



• You can find a map with all the towns that offer the FaithAction IDs here: faithaction.org/faithaction-id-program-and-network/



MAKE A PLAN FOR YOUR CHILDREN

One of the most important decisions you need to make when preparing for an emergency is deciding who will care for your children in the event of your absence due to detention or deportation.

Here are some of the actions you should take to safeguard your children:

• We recommend choosing a caregiver you trust, preferably someone who is not at risk of deportation. If you choose someone without immigration status, designate another person as a backup too.

• Choose people you trust, who live close to the school, and who can be available at short notice. Ideally, you should try to find someone with legal status who can pick up your children.

• Contact your child's school **now** and make sure the selected caregiver has authority to pick up your child. Don't wait for the emergency to happen to do it. You should also add other people to the list as backup.

• Talk to a lawyer to see if you need to sign any legal documents, such as a power of attorney, to make sure your children are cared for by your designee caregiver in case of an emergency. See information about powers of attorney on page 16.

• If you are detained or arrested and your child has another parent in the U.S., that person will have the right to care for your child unless you already have a court order saying otherwise. Parents do

not need a power of attorney or other legal document to take care of their own children.

• **Register your children as citizens** of your home country or their parent's country at your respective consulate. This will facilitate the family's return to their country of origin and the children's school enrollment.

• **Write down all important information about your children (names, immigration status, documents, school and health information, etc.) on a piece of paper and give a copy to the person designated to care for them. You can fill out the form on page 13 for each of your children.**

• Make sure your children have their passports valid, whether they were born in the United States or in another country.

You can view the requirements for a U.S. passport in the North Carolina Justice Center's Emergency Preparedness Guide: ncjustice.org



If the children are not U.S. citizens, check with your home country's consulate about requirements for obtaining their passports. (See a list of local consulates on page 9)



FORM FOR MINORS

(Complete one for each child)

A. FULL NAME OF THE CHILD:

Boy or girl? : _____
 Does the child have a passport? : _____
 Date of birth: _____
 Social Security: _____
 Mother's name: _____
 Is the mother's name on the birth certificate? : _____
 Father's name: _____
 Is the father's name on the birth certificate? : _____
 If the parents are not living together, location of the parent who does not live with the child: _____

Phone/email of the non-cohabiting parent: _____

Has there been a custody order issued by a court? (if any, attach copies): _____

Medical History: _____

Allergies: _____

Doctor : _____

Dentist: _____

Therapist or Counselor? : _____

School Name: _____

School Address/Phone: _____

Grade: _____

How do they get to and from school? : _____

Does your child have an Individualized Education Program (IEP)?: _____

Does your child participate in anything after school?: _____

Babysitter: _____

Other Information: _____



DUAL CITIZENSHIP



Having dual citizenship means being a citizen of the United States and another country at the same time.

Children born in the United States are automatically U.S. citizens regardless of their parents' immigration status.

U.S. children can also obtain citizenship of one or both of their parents' home countries, if they recognize dual citizenship with the U.S.

Contact your country's embassy or consulate to find out if they recognize dual citizenship with the U.S. and how to obtain it for your child.

Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador recognize dual citizenship. Therefore, if one or both parents of the U.S. citizen child are citizens of these countries, they can apply for dual citizenship for their children.

You can find the specific information on how to obtain dual citizenship as a Mexican citizen here: consulmex.sre.gob.mx/raleigh/index.php/servicios-para-mexicanos

For other countries, please contact your nearest consulate. See the list of local consulates on page 9.



TRAVELING ABROAD WITH A MINOR

Before planning a trip abroad, it's important to find out what the rules are for both the United States and the other country.

The rules may be different, but you should know the following:

- All children need a passport.
- If the child is with one parent, they will need the permission of the other parent.
- If neither parent is with the child, both parents must give written permission.
- If one parent has sole custody, you may not need written permission from the other parent.

MAKE A PLAN FOR YOUR PETS

If you have pets, decide who will take care of them if you are detained or deported. It's important that you leave all of your pets' information, such as their medical history, vaccinations, and the name of their veterinarian, with the person in charge.

Also find out from your consulate what you will need to do if you decide to travel with your pet to your home country. You can see the list of consulates in North Carolina on **page 9**.



Fill out the form below for each of your pets (include photos) and give a copy to the person designated to take care of them.

PET :

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____

Gender: _____

Type of Pet (dog, cat, etc.): _____

Breed: _____

Description: _____

Medical History: _____

Allergies: _____

Veterinary: _____

Contact information: _____

Instructions: _____



For more information, see the North Carolina Justice Center Guide: www.ncjustice.org

MAKE A PLAN FOR YOUR FINANCES AND PROPERTIES

It is important that you write down information about the household's financial situation and leave precise instructions so that your loved ones or someone you trust knows what to do with your bank accounts, home, vehicles, and other assets in case you are arrested.

You should also consult with an attorney about preparing a power of attorney to make it easier for your loved ones or the person you designate as your agent to comply with your instructions.

Keep in mind that a power of attorney is a very powerful legal document that could cause you great harm if you give it to the wrong person, so you should seek legal counsel before signing it.

To help you make a plan about your assets and finances, you can fill out the form below but understand that this **is not a legal document or a contract.**



Do not share this personal information with anyone, unless it is someone you trust, and keep the form in a safe place.

BANK ACCOUNTS:

Bank Name, Location, Account Number(s): _____

 Instructions: _____

Mobile home make and model: _____
 VIN number: _____
 Year: _____
 Current Value: _____
 Instructions for your home/mobile home: _____

Instructions for your insurance accounts: _____

HOUSING INFORMATION:

Do you own or rent your home?: _____

 If you own your home, do you have the deed to the property in your name?: _____

UTILITIES:

Electricity Company: _____
 Phone Service Provider: _____
 Satellite or cable TV provider: _____
 Internet provider: _____
 Instructions for your bills/utilities: _____

INFORMATION ABOUT VEHICLE(S):

Do you own your vehicle?: _____
 Is it in your name? _____
 Make: _____ Model: _____
 VIN Number _____
 Year: _____
 Current Value: _____

Are you making payments?: _____

 If so, name of the company: _____

Name of the rental or mortgage company: _____
 Address: _____
 Telephone: _____
 Account #: _____
 Monthly payment: _____
 Payment date: _____
 Is your home a mobile home?: _____

Instructions for your vehicle: _____

FURNITURE AND OTHER BELONGINGS:

Furniture, belongings: _____

 Instructions: _____

If it's a mobile home:

Is the mobile home in your name? : _____

 If not, whose name is the title in?: _____

INSURANCE INFORMATION (HOME, CAR, LIFE):

Company: _____
 Account number: _____

Keep the documents of your assets (titles, contracts, etc.) in a safe place where your relatives or your designated agent can find them.

POWERS OF ATTORNEY

What is a power of attorney and why do I need it?

- A power of attorney is a legal document in which you give a person of your choice the authority to make decisions about various matters, such as your finances, your property, or about the care of your children if you are detained or deported.
- This document may allow, for example, a friend or family member to close your bank account, sell your car, or make decisions about your children’s health care or school enrollment if you are absent.

What types of power should I consider?

1. A “general power of attorney” that gives the person of your choice the power to decide on financial matters and some child welfare matters.
2. A power to give someone the authority to make decisions about your children’s education.
3. A power that specifically gives someone the power to make health related decisions about your children.
4. A power of attorney required by the North Carolina DMV that allows someone else to sell your car or mobile home.



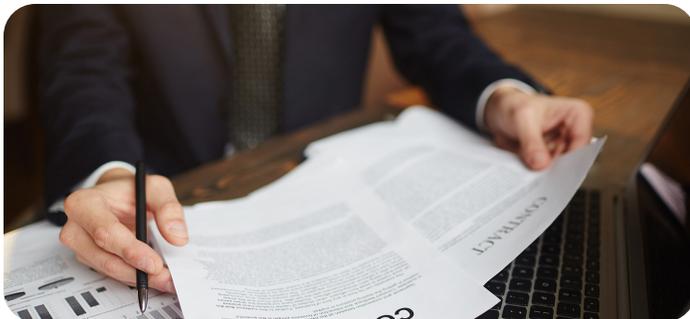
Keep in mind that a power of attorney does not give legal custody of your children to your agent. You can only transfer legal custody of your children to someone else by a court order.

WHO SHOULD I CHOOSE TO ACT AS MY AGENT?

• You should pick a person who is 18 years of age or older and make sure this person is mature enough to handle your personal and financial affairs.

• It is recommended to choose a person who is not at risk of deportation, but if you have no other option, you could add an alternative person to act only in case the first person is not available.

• It is recommended to choose a person with whom you do not share your workplace because, if you are arrested in a raid at your workplace, it is possible that your undocumented co-workers will also be detained.



CAN I CANCEL OR REVOKE A POWER OF ATTORNEY?

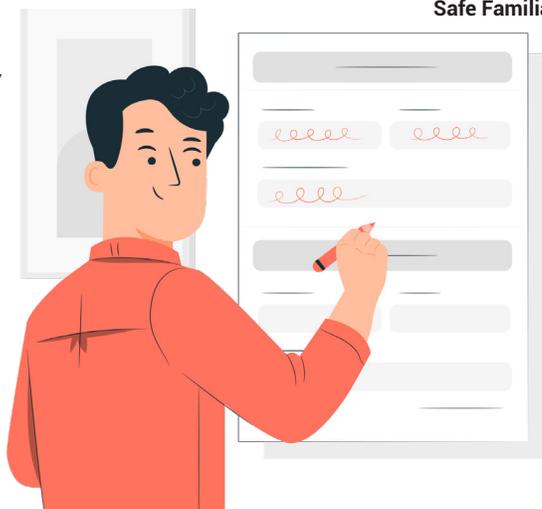
Yes, it is possible to cancel or revoke a power of attorney when you no longer need it. Additionally, your agent can resign if they no longer wish to be your agent. You must revoke the document in writing. Consult with an attorney about this.

For more information, see the North Carolina Justice Center Guide: www.ncjustice.org

MAKE AN EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST

One of the important actions within a family emergency plan is to make a list of people who should be contacted in case someone in the family is arrested or deported.

Make sure everyone in your family has a copy of that list and knows who to call and in what order to call in case of emergency.



Emergency Contact Sheet

IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Consulate: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

CHURCH, PRIEST, PASTOR

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Name: _____

Agency: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

TRUSTED FAMILY MEMBERS OR FRIENDS

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

FAMILY OR CLOSE FRIENDS IN YOUR HOME COUNTRY

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

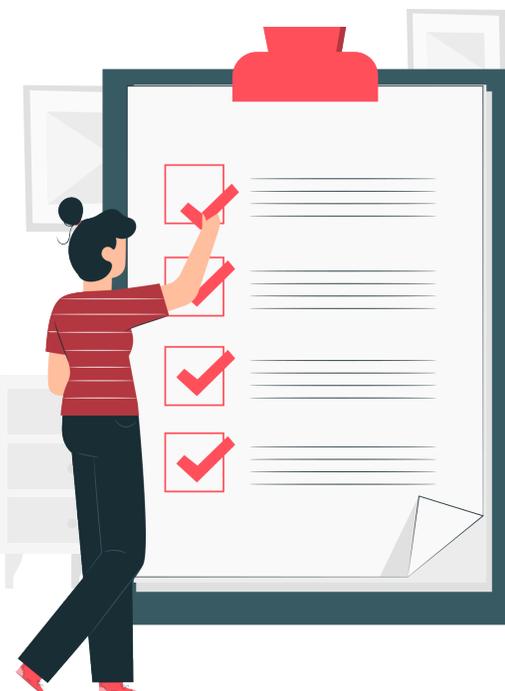
KEEP COPIES OF YOUR IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

Gather all important documents, make copies for all family members, and keep those documents in a safe place.

Make sure a trusted friend or family member who doesn't live with you knows where you keep these documents or make a set of copies for them.

List of important documents:

- Work permit
- Copies of identification
- Passports
- Immigration documents (records, notices, pending cases, etc.)
- Birth certificates for all family members (with English translations)
- Marriage certificates (with English translations)
- Social Security cards
- Name and contact information of attorneys who have represented you in the past
- U.S. criminal record (if applicable)
- U.S. tax registrations
- Records of living in the U.S. (rental agreements, pay stubs, school records, bank statements, utility bills, medical bills, and other documents that provide proof of residency since date of entry)
- Emergency contact sheet
- Important information about your finances and assets (page 15)
- Important information about your children (page 12)



For more information, see the North Carolina Justice Center Guide: www.ncjustice.org

EVALUATE YOUR OPTIONS FOR IMMIGRATION RELIEF

There are different ways that immigrants in the United States can obtain legal status to remain in the United States. It is important to speak with a reputable immigration attorney about your specific case to find out if you may be eligible for any immigration relief.

Many factors affect an immigrant's ability to obtain immigration relief, including how they entered the country, how long they have lived in the country, whether they have had a deportation order, their criminal history, the status of their family members, and others.

The following are just some of the most common possible avenues for immigration relief:

ASYLUM

Immigrants in the United States who fled their countries because they suffered persecution or feared persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, political affiliation, or being part of a specific social group, may be eligible for asylum.

VISA T

Immigrants who are or were victims of a serious form of human trafficking can apply for a T Visa if they are willing to cooperate with law enforcement. You can read more about T visas in English and Spanish on the USCIS website.



VISA U

Immigrants who have been victims of certain qualifying crimes while in the United States can apply for a U visa if they cooperate with authorities in the investigation and prosecution of those crimes. You can read more about U visas on the USCIS website.





CANCELLATION OF REMOVAL FOR CERTAIN NON-PERMANENT RESIDENTS

Immigrants who have been continuously present in the United States for ten or more years and who have a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident child, spouse, or parent who would suffer extreme hardship if they

are deported could be eligible. You can read more by scanning the QR code.



TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS)

TPS is a temporary immigration status for individuals from certain countries designated by the U.S. government who are experiencing temporary conditions that make it difficult or unsafe for their citizens

to return. The countries for which TPS is available change often, and the protection is limited. It does not currently provide access to permanent residence, although it does provide beneficiaries with work authorization. You can read more here by scanning the QR code.

CANCELLATION OF REMOVAL FOR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS

Immigrants who are already lawful permanent residents (Green Card holders) can also be placed in removal proceedings if they commit certain crimes or break other immigration laws. If that's the case for you, you may be able to apply for cancellation of those removal proceedings if you've had a green card for at least five years, have been in the country legally for seven or more years, and haven't committed certain crimes.

FAMILY-BASED ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS

Immigrants who have certain U.S. citizen family members, such as spouses, parents, children over the age of 21, or siblings, can apply for a green card if a visa is available to them. Generally, these types of cases are complicated, and it's recommended to discuss your case with an immigration attorney.



SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE (SIJ) STATUS

Immigrants under the age of 21 who have been abused or abandoned by one or more of their parents can apply for Special Immigrant Juvenile status. You can read more about it by scanning the QR code.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA)

Immigrants who suffered domestic violence by a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident spouse may be eligible for protection under VAWA. This may be available to immigrants facing removal proceedings or undocumented immigrants who are not in removal proceedings.

SEEK RELIABLE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

If you believe you may be eligible for any form of immigration relief, it is important to seek advice from an immigration attorney or a representative accredited by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Notaries are not lawyers, and they are not qualified to provide legal advice!



WHERE TO FIND A LAWYER?

Private Attorneys:
American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA):
ailalawyer.com



Pro bono or low-cost legal help:
Immigration Advocates Network:
immigrationadvocates.org/legaldirectory/



External Legal Assistance Program (PALE in Spanish)
Consulate of Mexico:
consulmex.sre.gob.mx/raleigh/images/abogados/asesorias_2025.png



BE CAREFUL!

In times of uncertainty and vulnerability, some people may try to take advantage of immigrants and try to convince them to apply for some benefits they may not be eligible for or that doesn't even exist.

Make sure that the attorney who provides you with guidance or assistance with your immigration case is qualified to practice immigration law and provide immigration legal services.



DID YOU COMPLETE ALL THE STEPS?

- Know your rights
- Make a plan with your family
- Contact an immigration attorney
- Evaluate your immigration options
- Get an ID
- Make a plan for your children
- Make a plan for your properties and finances
- Decide if you need a power of attorney
- Set aside an emergency fund
- Make copies of important documents
- Make a plan for your pets
- Complete an emergency contact sheet
- Learn about available resources and help

This **Emergency Guide for Latino Immigrants** was produced and edited by El Pueblo Inc and designed by Gerardo Arizmendi, with information provided by the North Carolina Justice Center and the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina (ACLU).

This guide seeks to help immigrant families who are concerned about the possibility of a family member unexpectedly being separated from their home due to their immigration status.

The guide is not intended to provide specific legal advice.

To view a digital version of this guide and a Spanish-language version, visit El Pueblo's website: elpueblo.org

For more information and resources, visit:

- The North Carolina Justice Center Guide:
www.ncjustice.org

- The ACLU-NC's Know Your Rights resources:
www.acluofnorthcarolina.org



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