Child Care Program Guide
What to Do Before, During, and After an ICE Raid

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Take
Action

WHY THIS GUIDE IS IMPORTANT

Child care professionals play a crucial role in ensuring the safety and well-being of children, including those from immigrant families. If an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raid occurs, this guide outlines steps to take before, during, and after to protect children, support families, and uphold legal rights.

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BEFORE AN ICE RAID

- Review your rights in Ohio: Immigrants' Rights | ACLU of Ohio

- Print and distribute Red Cards to immigrant families (English| Espanõl | عربي| Soomaali | 中国人 | فارسی| Français |Kreyòl Ayisyen| Hmoob | 한국인 | پښتو| ਪੰਜਾਬੀ | Русский | Tagalog | Tigrinya | українська | Tiếng Việt

- Encourage families to create a family preparedness plan

- Help prepare employees for an ICE raid:

  1. Create a plan. Designate a point person who will handle communications with ICE.

  2. Advise staff on how to interact with ICE in a calm and lawful manner.

  3. If possible, establish a written policy on how staff should respond if ICE comes to their facility.

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DURING AN ICE RAID

1. Ask to see a warrant (know the difference between judicial and administrative warrants)

   o Keep your interactions firm, but respectful. Remember that an administrative warrant (Form I-200 or I-205) does not allow ICE to enter private spaces.

   o **If ICE has a judicial warrant signed by a judge, review it carefully and comply within the scope of the warrant.**

2. Minimize harm to children

   o Keep children calm and away from the situation.

   o **Children may feel fear, anxiety, or confusion—staff should model composure and offer reassurance and comfort.**

   o If safe, move children to another area with trusted staff or family members.

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DURING AN ICE RAID (CONT.)

3. Call your legal and advocacy contacts

   o Notify your designated legal partner or community advocate immediately. If you do not have a lawyer already, you can use this legal directory to find one.

4. Do not interfere if agents enter

5. Document everything

   o Write down the time, location, agents' names and badge numbers, and any interactions that occur.

   o Ohio law allows individuals to record law enforcement officers, including ICE agents, while they perform their duties in public spaces. Ohio is a one-party consent state, meaning that as long as the recording does not interfere with law enforcement activities, it is legally permissible.

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AFTER AN ICE RAID

1. Provide trauma informed support to children ([Tips for Agencies Working With Immigrant Families](#))

2. Notify parents and guardians

   o If a child's parent is detained, follow the emergency contact plan to ensure the child's safety.

3. Help locate detained individuals

   o Use the [ICE Online Detainee Locator System](#) to find out if and where a person is being held.

4. Review & Strengthen Your Plan

   o After the incident, evaluate what went well and what could be improved.

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JUST CHECKING IN

We know these times continue to bring challenges, and we want to take a moment to acknowledge all that you do. As a child care professional, your work is essential, and your dedication does not go unnoticed.

Remember to take care of yourself, lean on your support systems, and reach out for resources when needed. You are not alone, and we appreciate everything you do for children, families, and our community.

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DISCLAIMER

This resource was prepared by Action for Children, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The information provided is for educational and informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. For legal guidance on specific issues, please consult a qualified attorney.

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