

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR FAMILY MEMBER IS DETAINED

LOCATING A FAMILY MEMBER WHO HAS BEEN DETAINED

- ICE provides an online detainee locator for detainees over the age of eighteen at <https://locator.ice.gov>.
 - o You must have your family member's A-Number and country of birth OR their full name, country of birth, and birth date in order to find them via the locator.
 - o If your family member is under the age of eighteen, you can find out whether they have been detained by contacting the appropriate ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) field office. The contact information for all the field offices can be found at <https://www.ice.gov/contact/ero>.
- Contact the consulate (embassy)
 - o Every detainee is required to be notified of their right to contact their consulate. Some consulates require that they be informed of any detentions of their nationals regardless of whether the detainee requests that communication. Thus, the consulate may have information regarding your family member's detention.
 - o You can find the contact information of your family member's embassy at <https://www.embassy.org/embassies/>.
- If you cannot locate your family member or your family member is not in immigration detention, they may be in a jail or similar facility. You can contact local facilities to find out if your family member is there.

CONTACTING THE DETENTION CENTER

- If you contact the detention center, be careful what you say. Do not discuss the specifics of your family member's legal situation or immigration status, as the calls are not confidential. It could be used against your family member later.

PHONE CONTACT WITH YOUR FAMILY MEMBER

- If you get a call from a detained family member:
 - o Get as much information as you can about their condition, which agency detained them, how they were detained, what they were detained for, where they are being held, what information or documents they have received, and whether they have talked to an attorney.
 - o HOWEVER, any conversation you have with your family member can and will be recorded by law enforcement. Do not discuss any important or sensitive information, such as your family member's immigration status or criminal history.
 - o Questions to ask:
 - ~ Do you need medical attention?
 - ~ Where are you?
 - ~ What papers have you been given and what do they say?
 - ~ Have you spoken with your attorney/representative?
 - ~ What law enforcement agency arrested or detained you?
 - ~ What is the largest city or town near you?
 - ~ Do you have any court date or hearing scheduled?

GET LEGAL HELP

- If your family member does not have an attorney, it is very important to seek legal help.
- Your family member can request a list of free or low-cost legal services while detained.

FOR LEGAL HELP RESOURCES:
WWW.IMMIGRATIONLAWHELP.ORG



DETENTION VISITATIONS

- To visit someone in an immigration detention center, you must be lawfully present (US citizen, green card or other valid immigration status) in the United States.
- The rules and hours for visitation will vary based on the detention center.

BOND HEARINGS

- Bond hearings are hearings where your family member can request to be released from detention by paying money to the government to ensure their appearance at future hearings.
- Your family member may request a bond hearing at their first hearing in immigration court or through a written request submitted to the immigration judge.
- Most criminal convictions trigger mandatory detention and make it very difficult to get out of detention. However, your family member may still be eligible for a bond hearing. Talk to an experienced immigration attorney to find out their options.