



A black heart being passed between two hands, symbolizing care and support for a detained loved one.



WHAT TO DO IF A LOVED ONE IS DETAINED

A GUIDE FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AND NAVIGATE THE PROCESS.

Navigating this process can feel overwhelming, but you've come to the right place. This guide provides a clear, step-by-step plan to help you support your loved one during these critical moments. Follow these steps carefully to support them and protect their rights. 🤝



STEP 1

LOCATE YOUR LOVED ONE

It's crucial to find out where your loved one is being held.

- Use the ICE Detainee Locator online (locator.ice.gov/odls/#/search).
- Contact immigration advocacy groups or legal aid organizations for assistance.
- Gather as much information as possible: full name, date of birth, country of origin.



STEP 2

SEEK LEGAL COUNSEL IMMEDIATELY

Legal representation is vital in immigration cases. Act quickly to find an attorney.

- Contact an immigration lawyer or a non-profit legal services provider.
- Find legal assistance through the Immigration Advocates Network (www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/).
- If your loved one had a lawyer, reach out to them.
- Gather any immigration documents your loved one might have.



STEP 3

COMMUNICATE AND SUPPORT

Staying in contact can provide immense comfort and help with their case.

- Inquire about visitation rules at the detention facility.
- Send letters or messages if direct calls are not possible.
- Ensure they know their rights: 'I wish to remain silent' and 'I want to speak with a lawyer.'



STEP 4

DO NOT SIGN OR CONSENT TO ANYTHING

Be cautious about any documents you or your loved one are asked to sign. Some documents could waive crucial rights.

- Advise your loved one not to sign anything without legal review.

- As a family member, do not sign any documents that could affect your loved one's case without lawyer consultation.
- Do not allow ICE agents into your home without a warrant signed by a judge.



STEP 5

PREPARE FOR BOND AND HEARINGS

Work with your lawyer to prepare for potential bond hearings and other court appearances.

- Gather documents that demonstrate strong community ties: job letters, utility bills, family photos, letters of support.
- Be prepared to explain why your loved one is not a flight risk or a danger to the community.
- Understand the legal process and what to expect in court.