



DOCUMENTING & RESPONDING TO ICE TRAINING

Presented by: States at the Core, Protect Rogers
Park, & Edgeville Community Rapid Response



Agenda

1. ICE Watch
2. Practical Advice for Documenting
3. Safety & De-escalation
4. Building for Community Defense

Agreements

1. Support the training team to get through to the end!
2. No unauthorized recording
3. Put relevant comments and questions in Q & A
4. Speak for yourself, from your own experience

NOTE: not all participants are vetted





What is new in this moment?

**Deportation raids are not new but the
scale & severity requires a new response.**

- Administration seeking to generate cruel and chaotic imagery; normalize militarization
- Large shows of armed force, with multiple agencies, meant to intimidate
- Sweeping up anyone in the area of an immigration operation, not just the target
- Targeting of previously 'sensitive' areas like schools, churches, courts, hospitals
- Aggressive surveillance, arrest and prosecution of non-violent protesters



WHY ARE OUR IMMIGRANT NEIGHBORS BEING TARGETED SO AGGRESSIVELY



- Immigrants and other marginalized groups of people are caught in the crosshairs of a dangerous escalation of authoritarianism.
- Authoritarian movements throughout history scapegoat immigrants and spread fear for their own power and profit.
- **This isn't about our immigrant neighbors, immigration is a testing ground for how civil rights will be comprehensively undermined for all.**



What is ICE / Migra Watch?



- ▶ ICE or Migra Watch is a tactic to document the immigration enforcement activity in our community
- ▶ **ICE Watch is NOT** about interfering
- ▶ **ICE Watch is a NON-VIOLENT** tactic
- ▶ It's not an individual activity - ICE Watch is about community
- ▶ It is an organizing tool to keep each other safe





- (1) DOCUMENT:** what they are doing in our neighborhoods, get a better understanding of ICE tactics, and documenting their activity that might run afoul of the law.
- (2) SUPPORT:** community members who are being targeted.
- (3) DE-ESCALATE:** diminish violence from any law enforcement agency.

We focus on documentation & response because:

1. It gets support to our neighbors in crisis.
2. We are learning about this new era of ICE enforcement.
3. We are all safer when we stick together.

What if you're the first to see something?



SALUTE



- S** **Size/Strength:** *of group of agents*
- A** **Actions/Activities:** *what are they doing*
- L** **Location:** *cross streets and any additional detail*
- U** **Uniform:** *How are they dressed and markers*
- T** **Time & Date of Observation:** *time is really important here*
- E** **Equipment and weapons:** *this includes the vehicles*





Frequently Asked Questions

► How many agents are on the scene?

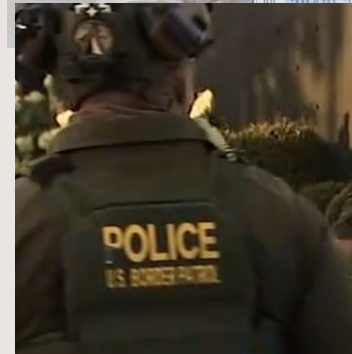
Anywhere from **two, four or six agents** for local operations targeting individuals in residential neighborhoods.

► Are they in clothing or uniforms?

Look for agents in tactical gear, fatigues, jeans, khakis or cargo pants. NOT uniformed municipal officers unless you are in a jurisdiction with a 287(g) agreement.

► What do agents' vests say?

You may see vests that say **POLICE ICE**, **POLICE HSI**, or **ERO** but they may have on jackets that just say **POLICE**. Increasingly they wear **no identifying markers**.





Frequently Asked Questions

► Vehicles and plates to look for:

Unmarked cars with dark tint & no plates.
Common models: Ford Explorer, Chevy Tahoe, Dodge Charger. They may be driving minivans or SUVs with government plates, but more increasingly pedestrian plates.

► Who else might I see?

DHS is allowing certain law enforcement components from the Department of Justice to carry out the "functions" of an immigration officer.



ALERT WHEN...



Border Patrol

National
Guard



ICE

FBI, DEA, U.S
Marshall, ATF, HSI

When you are out in the community
remember these uniforms; we're in this
together.. and WE PROTECT US!

Call the ICIRR Hotline (855)435-7693

LOCAL POLICE



Chicago Police
Department



Cook County
Sheriff Police



Illinois State
Police



Forest Perserve
Cook County



Local law enforcement should not
cooperate with ICE and Federal Agents on
civil immigration matters through the
TRUST ACT.

Common ICE Vehicles
Chicago October 2025



Chevy Express (Van)



Chevy Silverado



Ford Expedition



Ford Explorer



Jeep Cherokee



Nissan Armada



Chevy Suburban



Chevy Tahoe



Ford F-150



Ford Transit / Transit Connect



Nissan Pathfinder



Nissan Rogue



Chrysler Pacifica



Dodge Caravan



GMC Yukon Denali



GMC Sierra



Subaru Outback



Toyota 4Runner



Dodge Charger



Dodge Durango



Hyundai Santa Fe



Jeep Wagoneer

What to do after SALUTE:



► I have a neighborhood ICE Watch group:

Once you have gathered SALUTE info, send all information to your group. Ask others to help confirm the sighting, get folks to the scene, and provide guidance to targeted neighbors.

THEN, communicate with an immigrant rights hotline.

► I do not have a neighborhood ICE Watch group but DO have a hotline:

Immediately call and provide all SALUTE info to your immigrant rights or rapid response hotline.

► I do not have a neighborhood ICE Watch group OR an immigrant rights hotline:

Google immigration or ICE hotline + your town/city/state, more are popping up each day.

If you know someone being held in an ICE detention center: Call NIJC at (312) 583-9721

Everyone can do ICE Watch!

YOU can do this with just a handful of neighbors

If possible, work in threes. Communication is key!

- ▶ **Priority 1: Recorder**
- ▶ **Priority 2: Supporter**
- ▶ **Priority 3: Monitor**



ICE Watch Roles

Priority 1: Recorder

- ▶ Record the raid all the way through as long as its safe to do so
- ▶ Narrate what you're seeing
- ▶ **DON'T** focus video on the person or people they are detaining

Priority 2: Supporter

- ▶ Try to shout out vital Know Your Rights info
- ▶ If someone is being actively detained, ask for their name, date of birth, and an emergency contact
- ▶ **DON'T** engage with ICE agents or interfere (even if you witness violence)

Priority 3: Monitor

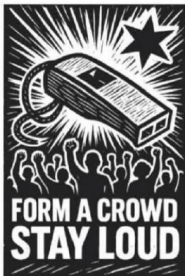
- ▶ Take note of everything that is happening
- ▶ Help direct people to engage safely
- ▶ **DON'T** interfere in any way



A Word About Whistles



H/T @PilsenArtsCommunityHouse for creating this template



PROTECT EACH OTHER

ROGERS PARK WHISTLE PROTOCOLS

WHY A WHISTLE? ON THE STREETS

- A SIMPLE TOOL FOR FAST ALERTS.
- LOUD, RECOGNIZABLE. IMPOSSIBLE TO IGNORE.
- OUR VOICES ARE STRONGER TOGETHER.

WHISTLES GUIDE PEOPLE TO:

- FOLLOW ICE CARAVANS
- CATCH UP WITH THE CROWD
- ALERT NEIGHBORS TO JOIN IN

NOISE = VISIBILITY.

CODE 1:
ICE NEARBY
BLOW QUICKLY IN A
BROKEN RHYTHM:
PRE—PRE—PRE!

→ ALERTS THE
COMMUNITY THAT ICE
AGENTS ARE IN THE AREA.

CODE 2:
CODE RED
BLOW THREE LONG BLASTS:
PREEEE—PREEEE—PREEEE!

→ ICE IS DETAINING SOMEONE.

FORM A CROWD, STAY LOUD.
DON'T STAY SILENT. STAY NONVIOLENT.

WHY IT WORKS

- INSTANT ALERT SYSTEM
- FASTER THAN SOCIAL MEDIA
- TURNS SILENCE INTO COMMUNITY ACTION

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- WEAR YOUR WHISTLE AROUND YOUR NECK
- TEACH FAMILY & NEIGHBORS THE CODES
- USE IT WHEN ICE IS SPOTTED
- PROTECT EACH OTHER, ALWAYS

**TOGETHER, WE
KEEP OUR
COMMUNITY
SAFE.**

**FORM A CROWD,
STAY LOUD.**

ORIGINAL FLYER CREATED BY:
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INFO@PILSENARTSCOMMUNITYHOUSE.ORG

THIS FLYER DISTRIBUTED BY:
PROTECT RP
@PROTECTRP_



PROTEGERNOS UNOS A OTROS

PROTOCOLO DE SILBATO DE ROGERS PARK

¿POR QUÉ UN SILBATO?

- UN SILBATO ES SENCILLO PARA ALERTAS RÁPIDAS.
- FUERTE, RECONOCIBLE. IMPOSIBLE DE IGNORAR.
- NUESTRAS VOCES SON MÁS FUERTES JUNTAS.

EN LAS CALLES

LOS SILBATOS GUÍAN A
LAS PERSONAS A:

- SEGUIR LAS CARAVANAS DE ICE
- PONTE AL DÍA CON LA COMUNIDAD
- ALERTA A LOS VECINOS PARA QUE SE UNAN

RUIDO = VISIBILIDAD.

CÓDIGO 1: ICE CERCA

SOPLA A UN
RITMO ROTO:
¡PRI—PRI—PRI!
→ ALERTA A LA COMUNIDAD
QUE HAY AGENTES DE ICE
EN EL ÁREA.

CÓDIGO 2:
CÓDIGO ROJO
SOPLA TRES VECES LARGAS
EXPLOSIONES:

¡PRIIIII—PRIIIII—PRIIIII!
→ ICE ESTÁ DETENIENDO A ALGUIEN.
**FORMEN UN GRUPO Y
MANTÉNGASE RUIDOSO.**
SIN VIOLENCIA. NO TE QUEDES CALLADO.

POR QUÉ FUNCIONA

- SISTEMA DE ALERTA INSTANTÁNEA
- MÁS RÁPIDO QUE LAS REDES SOCIALES
- CONVIERTE EL SILENCIO EN ACCIÓN

QUÉ PUEDES HACER

- LLEVA TU SILBATO ALREDEDOR DEL CUELLO
- ENSEÑA LOS CÓDIGOS A FAMILIARES Y VECINOS
- ÚSALO CUANDO SE ENCUENTRA ICE
• PROTEJÁMONOS UNOS A OTROS, SIEMPRE

**JUNTOS,
MANTENEMOS
NUESTRA
COMUNIDAD
SEGURA.**
**UNETE A LA
COMUNIDAD Y
MANTÉNTE
RUIDOSO.**

FOLLETO ORIGINAL CREADO POR:
INFO@PILSENARTSCOMMUNITYHOUSE.ORG
@PILSENARTSCOMMUNITYHOUSE

DISTRIBUIDO POR PROTECT RP
@PROTECTRP_



What supplies do you need



- ▶ Video Camera / Phone Camera
- ▶ State or government ID

What is helpful to have:

- Whistles / noisemakers
- Neighborhood Map
- Flashlight (phone is fine)
- Know Your Rights Cards
- Extra battery/phone charger
- Flyers and tape

What should you **NEVER** bring to verify a raid or ICE Watch:

(act like your going through security at the airport)

- Weapons of any kind
- Illegal (or any non prescription) drugs
- Open containers of alcohol or anything that is illegal to transport

Best practices for documenting abuses
and keeping yourself safe



Documenting public ICE and Border Patrol activity is legal & protected by the Constitution.

- ▶ Make sure to consult any local & state laws for additional laws about documenting as these will change from state to state, like distance from the activity.
- ▶ See [Reporters Committee for the Freedom of the Press](#) for state specific info.
- ▶ [Know your rights](#) before you begin watching.



Documenting Border Patrol & ICE...

Protects **you** by documenting your own actions to create a record of what you did and how you behaved during any encounter with ICE.

Helps your **neighbors** by capturing what occurs during a kidnapping to provide important information that may be helpful to the lawyers representing people who have been kidnapped.

Holds Border Patrol and ICE **accountable** when their actions are reviewed by the Courts.



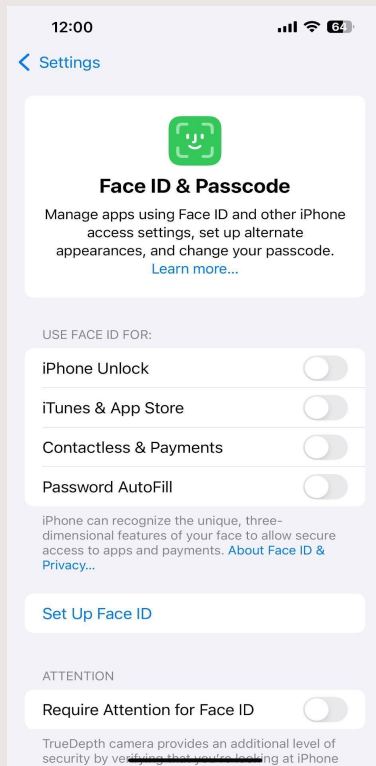


Turn off your biometric unlocking!



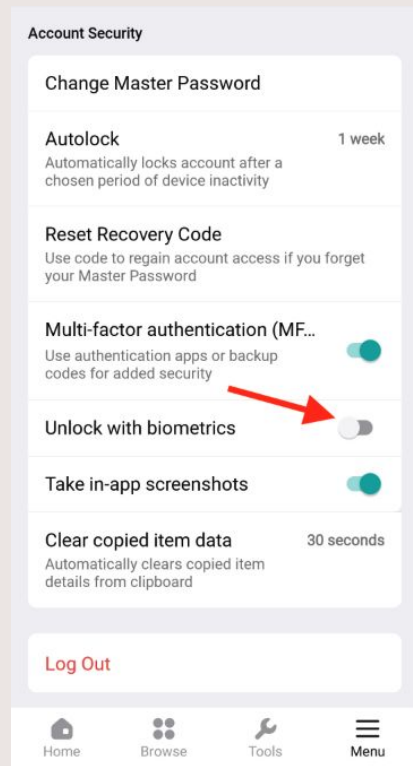
For iPhones

- Go to Settings, tap **Face ID & Passcode** or **Touch ID & Passcode**
- Enter your passcode when prompted
- Toggle off all “Use Face ID For:” settings



For Android

- Open the **Settings** app
- Tap on **Security & privacy**
- Select **Face & Fingerprint Unlock** or **Face recognition**
- Toggle off “unlock with biometrics”





Documenting Border Patrol & ICE



Again, you have the legal right to document/record any activity happening in public spaces, including CBP/ICE enforcement activity.

Documenting and collecting evidence:

- *Create a video*, NOT a live stream.
- *Narration*, not just what you see, but of your own compliance too.
 - “We are in a public space, I have a legal right to film your enforcement actions.”
- Stand far enough away that you don’t get pulled into the action itself.
- Try to document *license plate numbers and star numbers of agents* (or the lack of an identifying number)
- Before you stop recording — try to narrate the date, time, and location of the event you’ve just documented.
- Create redundancy. If you have a place to send this information, do it. But do not delete the copy that you have. Try to download the video to a secure external hard drive as soon as you’re able. Consider what you will do with the video right away. If you have a video and your phone is confiscated, do you have a way to remotely retrieve that video?



If you are documenting from vehicles/bikes:



- Always have someone with you.
- Determine who will record encounters with ICE (in a car this should be the passenger — begin recording as soon as you see a verified vehicle).
- If you're on a bike, try to stop as close to the sidewalk as you can. Put your hands up when it's safe to do so.
- If you are approached by agents in your car, lock your doors and roll the windows up. Once you're safely parked, put your hands up away from the steering wheel or gear shifter.
- *Narrate* that you're doing all of these actions.
- Loudly and clearly: *"I am on a public road. I have a legal right to use this public road. I am not preventing you from using this public road. I am not impeding your movements on this public road."*





If law enforcement tells you to get back, take one or two steps back saying out loud that you are complying. **You have the right to observe as long as you are not interfering with law enforcement activity.** Turn your camera to the ground to document yourself moving back.

Script that might help

- ▶ If officers tell you to get back, take a step back and verbalize:

“I’m cooperating. I’m taking a step back. I’m not interfering. I’m just exercising my legal right to observe.”

- ▶ To person being detained:

“Please tell me your name and date of birth. Is there a family member’s phone number so we can get help to you?”



Safety & Security Checklist



CHECKLIST

- ☒ Have an emergency contact and share important information with them
- ☒ Review de-escalation tactics to use purposeful actions, verbal communication, and body language to calm the situation
- ☒ Review your rights Know Your Risks (KYRs) - National Lawyers Guild
- ☒ Clear enough memory on your phone to have storage space for recording!
- ☒ Keep your phone charged and extra battery packs with you if possible
- ☒ Use encrypted communication





De-escalation Tips

De-escalation is a nonviolent response to conflict that aims to calm a tense situation.

Consider yourself, the individuals around you, and the person/people being targeted as you try to de-escalate

Three main components are:

- a. **Act:** Remain calm, maintain distance, and walk away when necessary
- b. **Communicate:** Think about your language, tone, and volume, set clear boundaries
- c. **Monitor:** Observe what's going on around you, respect personal space

Staying Safe



Stay 10 feet or more away from ICE*

- ▶ **Create distance** - make sure they have to walk towards you and you have distance to walk away
- ▶ **Hands up and empty** - repeated statements about rights and non-aggressive behavior
- ▶ **No name calling** – no aggressive verbal or physical behavior
- ▶ **Don't interfere** – ICE Watch is not a tactic for interfering with ICE activity, even if you witness violence towards neighbor from law enforcement

*Some states **require** 25 feet or more distance for recording ICE activity



A model for a community defense network

Protect RP was started in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood in early 2017.

The goal has always been organizing neighbors to protect neighbors who are in danger of being targeted by ICE.

The three main components are:

- a. Train people: trainings include how to identify ICE incursions, how to respond in numbers to those incursions, how to organize, how to recruit others, and how to use direct action.
- b. Creation of a communication system that allows all the different parts of the group to coordinate well and succinctly
- c. Build a resilient community to resist all authoritarian incursions, whether by ICE or other law enforcement.



How to intentionally build a resilient community



Be Welcoming: Our meetings always involve food, time for reflection, and a democratic spirit. We know that people need community and feeding each other helps build that. We know that no single person has every answer but we are stronger as a collective.

Be Creative: We come together to resist authoritarianism. We do that with our bodies but also our minds. We seek creative ways to engage people. As we say - Everyone can do something.

Be Flexible (but clear on the goal):

ICE won't invade our communities every day. We know that we need to respond to all sorts of needs created by authoritarianism. Sometimes that means mutual aid, sometimes that means a book club or a movie night, and sometimes that means responding. We are always clear that ICE watch and ICE response is core to our mission.

Be Courageous: These are difficult days. We all have to know how much risk we can tolerate and be willing to test that. We find courage in each other. We keep us safe.

How to build a community defense group - the basics!



- ▶ **Get trained.** Make sure you understand how to identify ICE and practice what you'd do if you see them in your community.
- ▶ **Find some friends!** This can be as small as a couple of neighbors that are concerned. Start talking about what worries you, and how you'd like to be there for each other.
- ▶ **Help your friends get trained.** Many networks struggle with false alarms that overwhelm the group, so making sure everyone is Ice Watch trained is a good place to start.
- ▶ **Put your newly trained friends to work!** Designate a few people as verifiers. Some things that make people good verifiers: work from home or around the community a lot, flexible work hours, mobile, and can stay calm in a difficult situation.

How to build a community defense group

- ▶ **Download an encrypted messaging app.**
- ▶ **Test the system.** When someone in your network has a possible ICE sighting, the verifier/administrators receive the message first. They'll ask for SALUTE information, as well as photos to try and help confirm the sighting.
- ▶ **Establish protocols.** If you're in a place without a larger network, the group of neighbors are your first resource for support. Can they join you? Can they send friends to join you? Are you in a city like Chicago where you can alert a larger network? Is there a hotline you can call?
- ▶ **Decide how you can have impact -** Our experience shows that you have about a 5-7 minute window from the moment contacted until the agents are gone. Groups that rely on larger time frames may consistently be too late.
- ▶ **Meet (and eat) regularly!**



A Structure for Community Defense or School Safety



Find your people and make a thing!

Protect Rogers Park and other Chicago community defense networks utilize a hub and spoke model. The hub or core leads should be responsible for decision-making, coordination between the spokes, and coordination with other rapid response teams.





Questions?





BIG THANKS TO



- ▶ All the Rapid Responders who are working hard to protect neighbors!
- ▶ ICE Watch trainers everywhere
- ▶ YOU!



Support Edgeville RRT by visiting <https://linktree.com/edgeville>

Donate to Protect RP through Venmo via Family Matters:
[@FMChicago1987](#). Please put “Protect RP” in the “What’s this for” line.

To support STAC’s work countering authoritarianism, donate here

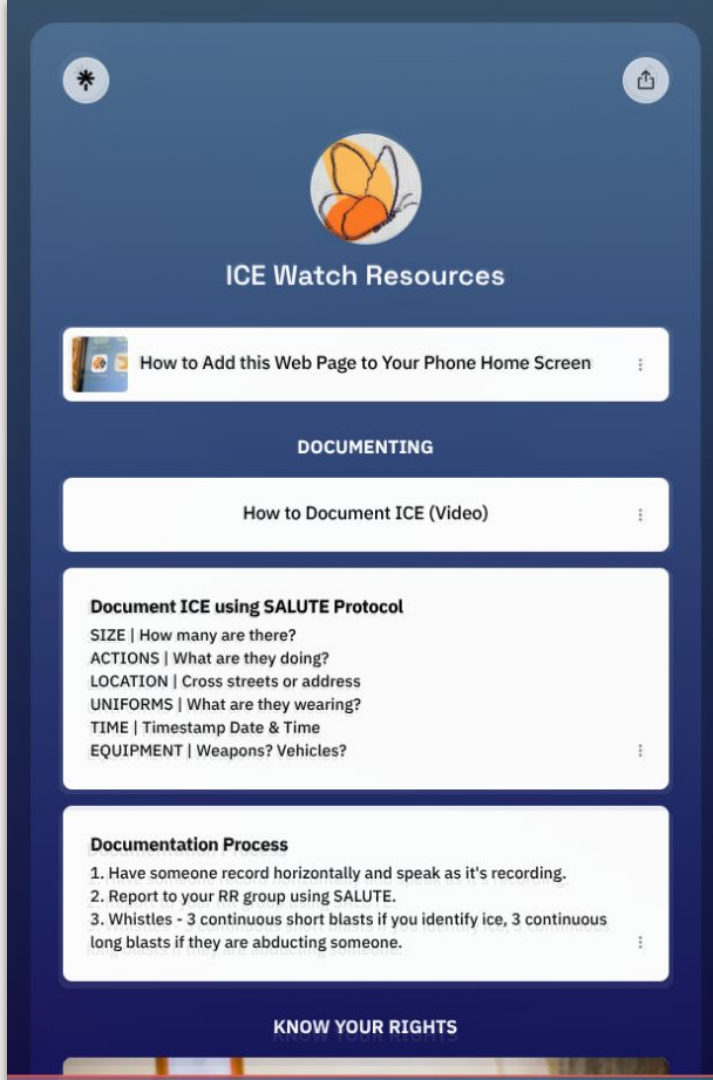




Additional



External Resources

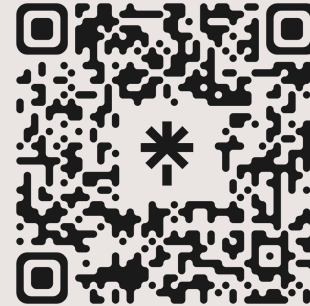


ICE Watch Resources Linktree

This will be continually updated



<https://linktree.com/icewatchresources>



Legal & Rights Resources

To Report Police & National Guard Misconduct: Free legal representation, community resources, report misconduct

- First Defense Legal Aid Hotline: 1-800-529-7374

If you are arrested at a protest or for political activity: Free legal representation while in police custody or court

- National Lawyers Guild Chicago Hotline: 872-465-4244

If you are active military & are uncomfortable with what you're being asked to do: Confidential and free legal support for military members and families.

- GI Rights Hotline: 877-447-4487

National Immigrant Justice Center: What to do if you or a loved one is detained

ICE's 287(g)



- ▶ The **Jail Enforcement Model (JEM)** targets people already in custody. Local law enforcement can question people arrested under local or state charges about their immigration status. These officers may also hold non-citizens in jail for up to 48 hours under ICE's request.
- ▶ The **Warrant Service Officer (WSO)** program allows ICE to train, certify and authorize state and local law enforcement officers to serve and execute administrative warrants in their agency's jail.
- ▶ The **Task Force Model (TFM)** serves as a force multiplier, allowing state and local law enforcement agencies to enforce limited immigration authority with ICE oversight during their routine duties, such as traffic stops.

Check to see if your local law enforcement has a 287(g) agreement in effect: <https://www.ice.gov/identify-and-arrest/287g>

336-543-0353

Wallet-Sized Know Your Rights Cards to **Download & Print**

- Arabic
- Chinese
- Dari
- French
- Haitian Creole
- Hindi
- Korean
- Polish
- Russian
- Spanish
- Ukrainian
- Urdu
- Vietnamese
- Somalian

Digital KYR card:
<https://www.ilrc.org/redcards>

A few hotline options:

MONARCA Rapid Response Line
(612) 441-2881 (Minnesota)



IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE DUE TO ICE DETENTION, OR
TO REPORT ANY SUSPECTED ICE SIGHTINGS, CALL

855-435-7693

 ILLINOIS COALITION
FOR IMMIGRANT
& REFUGEE RIGHTS

Visit icirr.org/fsn for
hotline and Know
Your Rights info

Siembra Rapid Response Line
(336) 543-0353 (North Carolina)





THINK BEFORE SHARING

Pause before you share publicly or start livestreaming. Determine if you need to protect anyone's identity, including your own.

If posting online, be aware of what information the platform is collecting. For example, cellphones often capture GPS coordinates in the video's metadata. If this information is uploaded with the video, it could be used to trace the footage back to you.



PRESERVE YOUR MEDIA

Save the original file in a safe place. Never delete the original file or change the filename.

If you do edit, do it from a copy. Refer to our [archiving decision tree](#) for more key points.



LIVESTREAMING

WITNESS does NOT recommend sharing footage on social media or livestreaming without consent from the person involved and/or direct representatives including lawyers or family members.

- Livestreaming can expose people's identities and other sensitive information far more easily than recorded video, but **sharing any videos online – live or not – is risky.**
- Consider streaming to a **trusted set of viewers**, such as an attorney or legal observers on a private channel.
- It can be helpful to describe what's happening or recap what happened through factual commentary.
- **Work with a partner** to keep an eye on what's happening in the periphery and to check viewers' comments and questions.
- While some sites may let you save the video on their platform, others delete the video after a set time period. If you think your video contains evidentiary content, it's good to **download and preserve a copy** on your secure devices.