FREDERICKSBURG IMMIGRATION JUSTICE FUND

Removing Financial Barriers. Restoring Dignity. Renewing Hope.

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Know Your Rights & Family Preparedness

Preparing before an emergency can help protect your family. Keep this page somewhere accessible and make sure a trusted person knows your plan.

If Immigration Officers Come to Your Home

- Stay calm. Do not run, argue, resist, or interfere with officers.
- You generally do not have to open the door. Ask officers to show you the warrant without opening the door.
- Check the warrant. An ICE administrative warrant is not the same as a judicial warrant signed by a judge. A judicial warrant should have the correct name/address and be signed by a judge.
- You have the right to remain silent. You may say, "I choose to remain silent and want to speak with a lawyer."
- Do not sign documents you do not understand. Ask to speak with a lawyer first. Never provide false information or false documents.

If You Are Approached in Public or at Work

- Stay calm. Do not run or physically resist.
- Ask, "Am I free to leave?" If the officer says yes, calmly walk away.
- You may choose to remain silent about where you were born or your immigration status. Do not lie.
- If officers ask to search you or your belongings, you may say, "I do not consent to a search."

Make a Family Emergency Plan Now

☐ **Choose a trusted adult who can care for your children if you cannot.**

☐ **Make sure school/daycare knows who is authorized to pick up your children.**

☐ **Write down emergency contacts and make sure children know whom to call.**

☐ **Keep important information together: passports, birth certificates, immigration documents, A-Numbers, attorney information, medications, insurance and school information.**

☐ **Make a plan for medications, pets, transportation, bills, and other essential household responsibilities.**

☐ **Tell a trusted person where your important documents are kept and how to access them.**

☐ **Ask a qualified attorney about appropriate documents for temporary childcare/caregiver authority before an emergency occurs.**

If a Parent or Caregiver Is Arrested

Contact the family's attorney or qualified legal provider as soon as possible. Activate the childcare plan, notify the designated caregiver, and make sure children have medications and essential items. Address immediate needs such as school pickup, pets, housing, transportation, and bills. See FIJF's Detention & Immigration Court Resources sheet for locating someone in ICE custody and checking immigration court information.

MY FAMILY EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Attorney / Legal Organization: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Childcare / Caregiver Contact: _____

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

MAKE A FAMILY PLAN

FIJF does not provide legal advice or legal representation. This handout provides general information only.