



Mayor's Office of  
Immigrant Affairs



# What to do after a friend or family member is detained by ICE/Immigration

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Frequently Asked Questions

**You can confirm your friend or family member is detained by searching in the online ICE locator at: [locator.ice.gov](https://locator.ice.gov)**

To use the locator, you will need your friend or family's:

- Country of birth AND “A number” **OR**
- Country of birth, first name, last name, and date of birth (Please note: the name must be spelled correctly).



**TIP:** An “A number” is an 8- or 9-digit identification number found in most immigration documents. It follows the letter A. It can also be found on someone’s wristband when they are detained. For example: A 000-000-000

If you don’t have their A number, ask your friend or family member for it when you hear from them.



**1-800-354-0365**

**Monday to Friday, 9AM to 6PM**

**Interpretation is available in your preferred language.**

For free and confidential immigration legal help, immigrant New Yorkers can call the MOIA Immigration Legal Support hotline.



**Call 311**

**Say “Immigration”**

**Interpretation is available.**



Immigration law is complicated.

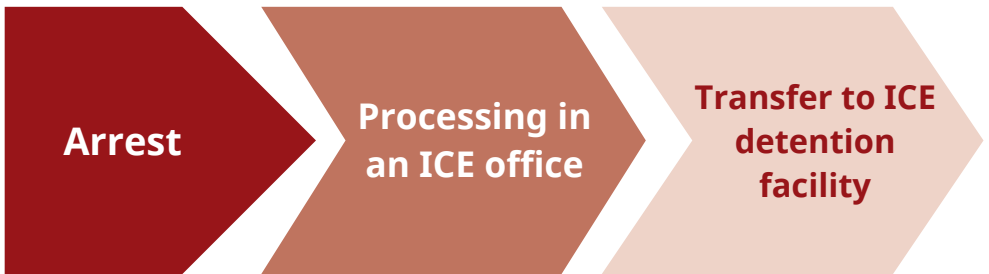
Beware of immigration legal scams or fraudulent providers who may indicate false promises.

**Remember:** A public notary who is not a licensed attorney cannot fill out or file immigration forms on your behalf. They also should not give you legal advice.

**My friend or  
family member  
was detained by  
ICE/Immigration.  
How do I find  
them?**



If ICE/Immigration detains your friend or family member in or around New York City, they will be processed at an ICE office in Manhattan. This will typically take one day. Then, they will be transferred to a detention facility. Typically, the detention facility will be in New York or New Jersey. Sometimes people can be placed in an immigration detention facility in other states. Detention facilities may be in a jail or in a federal building.



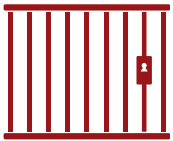
**Is it safe to visit  
my friend or  
family member?  
How can I see  
them and send  
them money?**





Note: If you are worried that an issue with your own case or immigration status puts you at risk by going to visit a friend or family member, *you should consult an attorney.*

## Before you visit:



**Review each detention facility's requirements** for identification and whether background checks are required.



**Look up their information** by visiting: [www.ice.gov/detention-facilities](http://www.ice.gov/detention-facilities). You may need to call the detention facility to confirm the information.



**You must be placed on your friend or family's visitation list** and can visit only on particular days and times set by the facility.

**How can my  
friend or family  
member get a  
lawyer?**







The U.S. government does not provide lawyers for immigrants facing deportation.



**Your friend or family member may be given an attorney through the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project (NYIFUP).**



NYIFUP is a city program that **provides free, high-quality lawyers for New Yorkers detained by ICE/immigration who have a case in immigration court.**

**Turn to the next page to learn more about this program.**



NYIFUP will assign a free attorney to those who qualify. To qualify the person **must be detained and fulfill the following requirements:**



The deportation case is at the Varick St. Immigration Court. If the case is in a New Jersey Court the person must be a New York City resident;



The person detained does not have an attorney;



It is the first hearing in immigration court for this case; and



The household income is below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

The assignment of an attorney may take place soon after the first master calendar hearing.



**Some people may NOT  
get a lawyer through this  
program.**

Please note this program gives attorneys to people who have pending immigration cases before an immigration judge in an immigration court. They may not provide representation to people who already have an order of removal or who do not have a pending case.



**1-800-354-0365**

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preferred language.**

If your friend or family member does not qualify for NYIFUP, you can call the **MOIA Immigration Legal Support hotline** for information and legal assistance.

**If your friend or family member previously had contact with federal immigration officials and were ordered deported, or is being transferred out of New York or New Jersey, contact an attorney immediately.**

**If any of these have happened, it's possible your friend or family member could be facing a quick deportation and needs immediate immigration legal assistance. It is necessary to obtain all of the documents related to any previous immigration proceeding that they may have had.**



**How do we  
know when the  
first court date  
will be?**

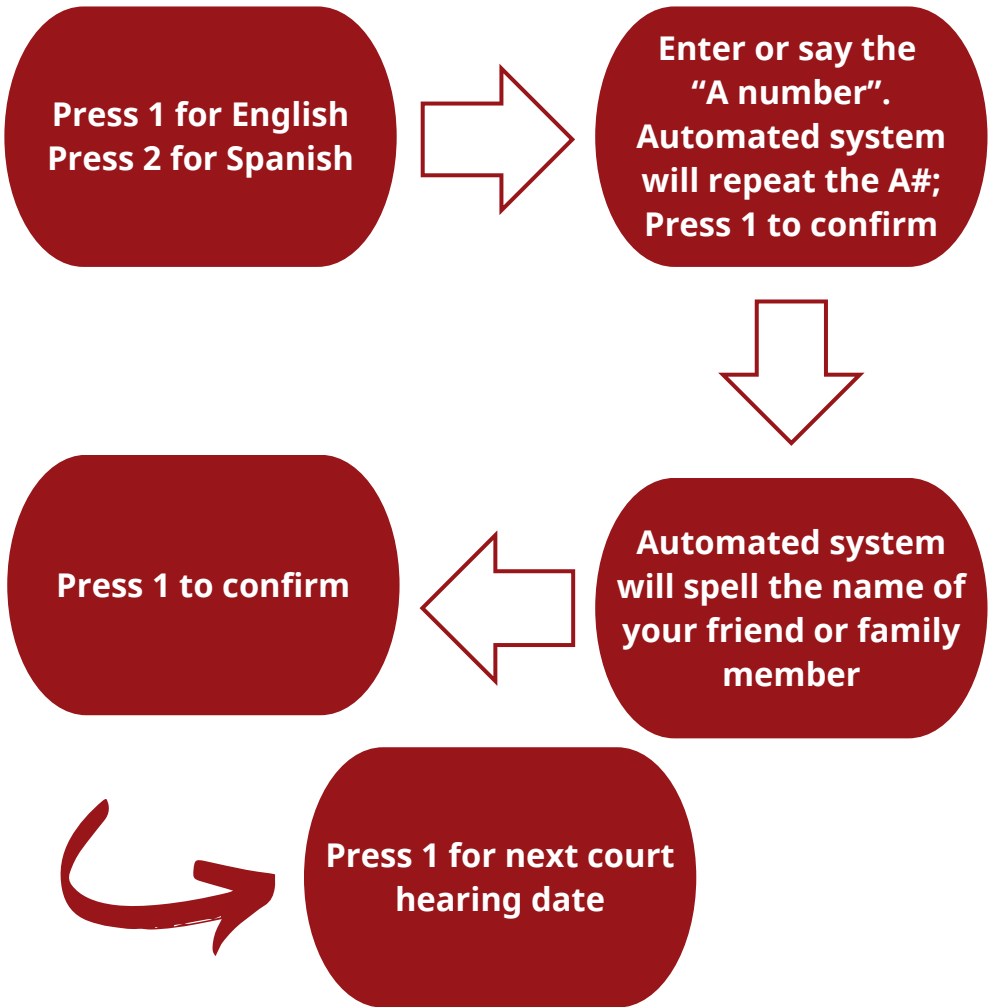




# 1-800-898-7180

**You can find out when and where the court date will be by calling the Immigration Court Information Line.**

This is an automated information system. No person will answer the call. The system only provides information in English and Spanish.





**Note: If they do appear in the system but do not have a court date**



**Press 3 to check for old decisions.**

If it says that a court “ordered removal,” it means that your friend or family member will not get a new hearing.



You can also look up the court’s information online using this website and typing in the A number, available in English and Spanish.

<https://acis.eoir.justice.gov/en/>

**How long will  
they be  
detained?**





**This is a difficult question to answer and depends on the particular case. Your friend or family member will be detained until their case is finished or until the judge grants them bond.**



Not everyone will be provided the opportunity for a bond. At a bond hearing, the immigration judge decides whether the person could be released from immigration detention if they (or a trusted person they know) can pay a bond.



An immigration bond is a payment to the U.S. government in exchange for the detained person to be released and promise to fulfill the requirements of their release, which may include requirements from the judge for their pending immigration case.

There may be other ways to challenge their detention, even if the government believes your friend or family member does not qualify for a bond hearing. This will require a careful review of their case with an experienced lawyer.

# Bond Assistance

If the bond has been granted, and you cannot afford it, you may qualify to have bond posted (in part or in full) by nonprofits who help immigrants and their friend or family member pay bonds. Some resources include:

## **The Envision Freedom Fund**



Visit their website to see if they are accepting bond referrals:

<https://envisionfreedom.org/get-support/#reach-out>

## **The Black Immigrants Bail Fund**



Email them at [blackimmigrantbailfund@gmail.com](mailto:blackimmigrantbailfund@gmail.com)



Fill out their request form at their website:

<https://www.blackimmigrantsbailfund.com/>

## **The LGBTQ Freedom Fund**



Email them at [info@lgbtqfund.org](mailto:info@lgbtqfund.org),



Visit their website <https://www.lgbtqfund.org/>



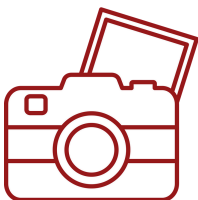
Call 786-233-8969

**What else  
should I do  
now?**





If you or someone else was a direct witness to the immigration arrest, they should **write down everything that happened when your friend or family member was arrested and detained.**



Write with as much detail as they can remember and **gather any physical or photographic evidence.**

**Notes:**

[www.nyc.gov/knowyourrights](http://www.nyc.gov/knowyourrights)

For the most up to date information,



- Point your phone's camera at the QR code below and hold steady for a few seconds.
- Tap the notification that appears to access the information.

