



# Know Your Rights & Resources

*Upholding Justice and Rights for Every Chicagoan*

**OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT, MIGRANT,  
AND REFUGEE RIGHTS (IMRR)**

## ***Acknowledgments***

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed to the creation of this guide. Your support, expertise, and dedication have been invaluable throughout this process.

We would also like to note that the information provided in this guide should not be construed as legal advice. It does not cover all the necessary details or situations you need to know and is intended solely as a starting point. We encourage you to seek professional advice tailored to your specific needs.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the following organizations for their unwavering support of immigrant and refugee communities. Your resources and dedication have been a source of inspiration in the creation of this manual.

***American Civil Liberties Union***

***Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights***

***Make the Road New York***

***National Immigrant Justice Center***

***The Resurrection Project***



# Key Definitions

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Definitions of agencies, departments, and entities mentioned in this manual

## Federal Agencies &

**Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE):** can enforce immigration laws throughout the United State. ICE is the policing arm of the Department of Homeland Security.

**U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS):** processes applications for immigration benefits.

**U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP):** can enforce immigration laws within 100 miles of any land or sea border.

**ICE Warrant:** directs various federal immigration enforcement agents to arrest the person named in the warrant. Because it is not issued by a judge, an ICE warrant does not give the immigration enforcement officer the authority to demand entry to a home or private space in order to make the arrest.

**ICE Detainer:** is a written request that a local jail or other law enforcement agency detain an individual for an additional 48 hours after his or her release date in order to provide ICE agents extra time to decide whether to take the individual into federal custody for removal purposes.

## City of Chicago Agencies and Departments

**Chicago Police Department (CPD):** primary law enforcement agency of the city of Chicago. It is not charged with carrying out immigration enforcement.

**Mayor's Office of Immigrant, Migrant, and Refugee Rights (IMRR):** created in 2023 to promote the inclusion and equitable treatment of immigrants, migrants, and refugees in Chicago.

**Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS):** dedicated to supporting services to enhance the lives of Chicago residents, particularly those most in need, from birth through the senior years.

**Office of Emergency Management (OEMC):** prepares Chicago for emergencies, aids disaster recovery, mitigates impacts, and prevents or reduces disasters when possible.

**Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH):** provides guidance, services, and strategies that make Chicago a healthier and safer city.

## City & State Laws

**Welcoming City Ordinance:** law in Chicago that ensures immigrant and refugee residents are treated with dignity and respect, protecting them from discrimination and promoting inclusivity in city services.

**Illinois Trust Act:** State law that generally prohibits local law enforcement<sup>1</sup> in Illinois from participating in immigration enforcement.

**Illinois Ways Forward Act:** State law that prohibits state and local governments from engaging in federal immigration enforcement and, critically, ending immigration detention in the state.





# CHICAGO IS A WELCOMING CITY

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Chicago is the birthplace of the Welcoming City movement in the Midwest.

In 1985, under the leadership of Harold Washington, the City's first Black mayor, Chicago took bold steps to embrace immigrants and people from all walks of life by prohibiting city officials from inquiring about citizenship status.

In 2012, Chicago passed the Welcoming City Ordinance, a landmark piece of legislation aimed at making the City more inclusive for immigrants, refugees, and people of all backgrounds.

The ordinance ensures that all residents are not denied services based on their immigration status.

It provides access to essential City services, like health care, education, and housing, without the threat of deportation.

It also limits the ways local law enforcement can cooperate with federal immigration authorities.

Being a Welcoming City isn't just a policy—it's a promise. A promise to honor the contributions of immigrants and refugees, to celebrate diversity as a strength, and to uphold the values of equity and respect that define us.



**WELCOMING CITY ORDINANCE**



ILLINOIS COALITION  
FOR IMMIGRANT  
& REFUGEE RIGHTS

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

## WHEN INTERACTING WITH IMMIGRATION OFFICERS (ICE)

- **If you believe you are witnessing ICE activity**, please call ICIRR's 24-Hour Family Support Hotline at 1-855-HELP-MY-FAMILY (1-855-435-7693) to report it.
- **If you find yourself interacting with an ICE officer in any location including your workplace, or out in the community, remember that you:**
  - Have the right to remain silent when questioned or arrested by immigration officers
  - Should remain calm and keep your hands where the officer can see them
  - DO NOT:
    - discuss your immigration or citizenship status with the police, immigration agents, or other officials
    - sign anything you do not understand. You should state that you wish to speak with an attorney
- **If an officer knocks on your door at home:** Do NOT open the door. Teach your children not to open the door.
  - ICE officers must have a **warrant signed by a judge** to enter your home. ICE "warrants" are not signed by judges; they are ICE forms signed by ICE officers and they do not grant authority to enter your home without your consent
- **If you are outdoors and think you see immigration officers nearby:**
  - Move to a safe indoor space
  - If you are a U.S. citizen and feel safe to do so, record the activity with your phone or write down any relevant information about what you witness—ALWAYS being careful to not interfere or otherwise obstruct the operation
- **DO NOT**
  - Post unverified information on social media
  - Interfere with the investigation or otherwise put yourself in harm's way

**NEED SUPPORT? CALL ICIRR'S FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK HOTLINE:**

**1-855-435-7693**

# KNOW & EXERCISE YOUR RIGHTS

## DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR

- ASK THE AGENT TO SLIDE THE JUDICIAL WARRANT UNDER THE DOOR OR HOLD IT AGAINST THE WINDOW. MAKE SURE IT'S A VALID JUDICIAL WARRANT.
- A VALID JUDICIAL WARRANT SHOULD HAVE: YOUR CORRECT NAME AND ADDRESS, VALID DATE, AND BE SIGNED BY A JUDGE
- IF THE JUDICIAL WARRANT DOES NOT HAVE THE CORRECT INFORMATION, THEN THE WARRANT IS NOT VALID. SHOW THE AGENT THIS FLYER

## REMAIN SILENT

- DO NOT ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS & SAY: "I WISH TO REMAIN SILENT"
- DO NOT PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING WHERE YOU WERE BORN, WHEN, OR HOW YOU ARRIVED TO THE COUNTRY

## SPEAK WITH YOUR ATTORNEY

- SAY "I WILL CALL MY ATTORNEY" AND CALL YOUR ATTORNEY BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS

## DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING

- DO NOT SIGN ANY DOCUMENTS

PHONE NUMBER OF YOUR ATTORNEY OR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ICIRR FAMILY SUPPORT HOTLINE: (855) 435-7693

### SAMPLE OF JUDICIAL WARRANT ICE CAN ENTER YOUR HOME

### SAMPLE OF ADMINISTRATIVE WARRANT ICE CANNOT ENTER YOUR HOME

# **I KNOW AND HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXERCISE MY RIGHTS**

**YOU CANNOT ENTER PRIVATE PROPERTY  
WITHOUT A VALID JUDICIAL WARRANT**

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**IF YOU HAVE A VALID JUDICIAL WARRANT,  
SLIDE IT UNDER THE DOOR**

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**IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A VALID JUDICIAL  
WARRANT, YOU DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO  
ENTER MY HOME OR PRIVATE PROPERTY**

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**I WILL NOT ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS AND I  
WILL CALL MY ATTORNEY**



# Emergency Family Plan

Every family should have an emergency plan. This packet helps you create one, regardless of immigration status.

It includes templates to organize emergency contacts, create a list of people to help with your case, important documents, and, if needed, a short-term guardianship.

## Make a Child Care Plan

### Talk to Your Children About Your Plan

- Reassure your children they'll be cared for if you're unable to, and tell them who will look after them until you can.

### Choose a Caregiver for Your Children if You Are Unable To

- Talk to potential caregivers about being emergency contacts.
- Memorize their phone numbers, and ensure your children do too.
- Let your children know who can and cannot pick them up from school and who will care for them.
- Schools may only release your child to designated adults.
- Regularly update emergency contact and release forms for school, afterschool, daycare, and other programs.
- Include names of those who can and cannot pick up your child.

### Write Down Instructions for Your Child's Medical Conditions and Medications

- Write down your child's medical conditions, allergies, medications, doctor, and health insurance details.
- Keep a copy in your emergency binder.
- Provide copies to your child's school and designated caregiver.
- Ensure your child knows where to find this information if needed.

### Make Sure Your Children All Have Passports

- If your child was born in the U.S., visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for U.S. passport information.
- If your child was born in your home country, check with your embassy or consulate about getting a passport.
- You can also register your U.S.-born child's birth with your home country's government (such as at your consulate) for potential benefits, including possible citizenship.

### Do I have to hire a lawyer and go to court to request a guardian for my children?

Not necessarily. There are several types of guardianship under Illinois law.

- Plenary (long-term) and standby guardianships require going to court.
  - In Chicago, you can file these cases without a lawyer; the Guardianship Assistance Desk at 69 W. Washington can help with paperwork.
- Short-term guardianship does not require court involvement.
  - To create a short-term guardianship, both the parent and guardian must sign a form in front of two witnesses.
  - A short-term guardianship lasts up to 365 days, but can be revoked at any time by the parent.

### Where can I find more information about guardianships in Illinois?

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services  
<https://www.cvl.org/>  
(312) 332-1624

Illinois Legal Aid Online  
<https://www.illinoislegalaid.org/>

### Family Planning Guide







# Access to Healthcare

Source: Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights

## ★ Accessing Healthcare: Uninsured and Undocumented

There are limited resources for individuals who are undocumented and uninsured, however there are some options available that may help:

- **Federally Qualified Health Centers:** Anyone can receive medical care regardless of legal status. A wide range of medical services are offered and costs depend on income level.
- **Community Health Centers:** There are community clinics that offer comprehensive medical care for underserved populations regardless of legal status. For further information on community health clinics please visit the QR code



## ★ Do I qualify for healthcare?

There are limited resources available for undocumented immigrants. However there are a few options available:

- **Emergency Medical Services:** Regardless of legal status, undocumented immigrants are eligible to receive emergency medical services under federal law. The maximum coverage is 30 days of care and until the patient is stabilized.
- **All Kids Program:** Illinois provides a comprehensive healthcare program for kids under 19 years old regardless of legal status. All Kids covers doctor visits, medications, vision and dental care and hospitalization.
- **Cook County CountyCare:** It is a Medicaid program that was created through the Affordable Care Act. CountyCare provides comprehensive medical services, medication, vision and dental care for all regardless of legal status.
- **Moms & Babies:** It is a comprehensive insurance plan for pregnant people. The insurance plan covers up to a full year after the end of pregnancy.
- **Affordable Care Act:** It is a Medicaid expansion plan for U.S Citizens or Qualified Non-U.S Citizens.
- **Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors:** It is a health insurance program for 65 & older people. Individuals can't be eligible for Medicaid or Medicare. The common groups include people who are undocumented, green card holders for less than 5 years or have Temporary Protected Status (TPS).
- **Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults:** A health insurance program for individuals between the ages of 42-64 who are not eligible for Medicare or Medicaid.

# THINK

## BEFORE YOU HATE

REPORT HATE AND DISCRIMINATION

CHICAGO  
MAYOR BRANDON JOHNSON

CHICAGO COMMISSION  
ON HUMAN RELATIONS



CCHR  
Chicago Commission  
on Human Relations

DSS  
Department of Social  
and Family Services

CHI311



## HATE CRIMES & HATE INCIDENTS

A **Hate Crime** is a criminal act motivated by bias against a protected class, i.e., race, color, gender, age, religion, disability, national origin, ancestry, or sexual orientation

**CRIME + HATE = HATE CRIME**

**Call 911!**

**Report HATE CRIMES to Chicago Police**

A **Hate Incident** is a non-criminal act motivated by bias against someone's race, color, gender identity, age, religion, disability, national origin, ancestry, or sexual orientation.

**NON-CRIMINAL ACT + HATE = HATE INCIDENT**

**Call 311!**

**Report HATE INCIDENTS to the City.**



Learn More About the Chicago  
Commission on Human Relations



## LEGAL SERVICES

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Chicago's Legal Protection Fund partners with the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) and The Resurrection Project to provide the following services to immigrants:

- Outreach to the community
- Education
- Legal screenings
- Representation in the courtroom

NIJC offers free legal screenings, "Know Your Rights Trainings," and immigration representation to eligible immigrants and families living within the Chicago city limits

## TO MAKE A LEGAL APPOINTMENT

**CALL (312) 660-1370**

### DETAINED INDIVIDUALS CAN CALL:

- **NIJC Detention Project:** (773) 672-6599 on Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- **Cook County Public Defender's Office:** (312) 603-0636

## LOCAL LEGAL RESOURCES



ICIRR List



A2J List



World Relief List



Welcome to IL



## Additional Resources

**The Immigration Division of the Cook County Public Defender's Office** : aims to protect noncitizen clients from deportation.

- **Email:** [PDimmigrationunit@cookcountyl.gov](mailto:PDimmigrationunit@cookcountyl.gov)
- **Phone Number:** (312) 603-0636

**Organized Communities Against Deportations (OCAD)** : a group of organizers against deportations and the criminalization of immigrants and people of color.

- **Deportation Support Hotline:** (855) 435-7693

**National Lawyers Guild Chicago** : founded to unite lawyers, law students, legal workers, and jailhouse lawyers.

- **Email:** [chicagoimmigrantdefense@gmail.com](mailto:chicagoimmigrantdefense@gmail.com)
- **Phone Number:** (312) 274-9808

**Illinois Coalition of Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)** : coalition of pro-immigrant organizations promoting the rights of immigrants and refugees.

- **Family Support Hotline:** 1-855-HELP-MY-FAMILY

**National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)** : promotes community wellness, improve mental health care access, and support families, professionals, and individuals in Chicago and beyond.

- **NAMI Helpline** : (833) 626-4244

**Immigrant Justice - The Resurrection Project (TRP)** : works toward a future where all immigrants are liberated with equal opportunities to thrive, experience joy, and be celebrated in their full humanity.

- **Email:** [info@resurrectionproject.org](mailto:info@resurrectionproject.org)
- **Phone:** 312-666-1323







**For updates and resources  
follow @ChicagosIMRR on  
Instagram**

