

## **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS:**

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO AS A BYSTANDER DURING IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT (ICE) ACTIONS**

*It's easy to freeze when you see immigration agents detaining someone, especially if the officers are acting quickly or aggressively. Consider talking about these action items with a trusted friend or family member, and practice what you can say out loud before you need to use this information.*

#### **If you witness someone being detained by immigration officials**

*Remember: Your safety, and the safety of those around you, is the top priority. You cannot challenge unconstitutional law enforcement actions on the street.*

- If you have a smartphone, record video of the interaction. *You have a First Amendment right to record law enforcement actions in public spaces, but recording can still carry risks.*
- Do not stop and restart recording, and do not edit the original video — even the file name.
- Try to capture identifying information about the agents or their cars, and any landmarks or signs at your location.
- Maintaining enough distance can help prevent officers from claiming you were interfering. Follow instructions. *Rule of thumb: Be far enough away an officer would have to walk towards you to make contact.*
- Make a copy of the video and keep in a safe place. Share the footage with the victim's family or lawyer if you can, or alternatively, an immigration organization in your area.
- Call a deportation defense hotline to alert local advocates of any ICE activity.

**In Rhode Island, call the  
AMOR Defense Line Against  
Deportation:  
401-675-1414.**

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**In Rhode Island, call the  
AMOR Defense Line Against  
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401-675-1414.**

If you call the deportation defense hotline, be ready to share specific information:

- **Where** exactly are the agents?
- **How many** immigration or law enforcement agents are there?
- **What** are the agents doing?
- **How** long have the agents been in that location?
- **What**, if anything, do you know about the person being detained?

- Call the family and/or emergency contact of the person being detained, if you know who they are.
- Write down everything you remember about what you witnessed.
- Get contact information and copies of any recordings or photos from other witnesses.

**If possible, provide emotional support for the person being detained, and remind them of their rights.** You can talk to the person being detained as long as you are not interfering with or obstructing the officers. Remind them:

- “You can remain silent!” and “You don’t have to answer questions!”
- “You have the right to call your lawyer!” and “You don’t have to sign anything without a lawyer!”

**Do not interfere or escalate the situation with force and try to stay calm.** Understand what consequences you could face if you intentionally break the law, whether for civil disobedience or any other purpose, such as obstructing an arrest.

**For more information about other actions you can take, go to [riaclu.org/bystander](http://riaclu.org/bystander).**

This document is not intended as legal advice. If you feel your rights have been violated, contact the ACLU of Rhode Island by emailing [info@riaclu.org](mailto:info@riaclu.org), or call (401) 831-7171.



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**ACLU**  
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION  
FOUNDATION

ACLU of Rhode Island  
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Providence, RI 02903  
[www.riaclu.org](http://www.riaclu.org)  
(401) 831-7171

Rhode Island

If you call the deportation defense hotline, be ready to share specific information:

- **Where** exactly are the agents?
- **How many** immigration or law enforcement agents are there?
- **What** are the agents doing?
- **How** long have the agents been in that location?
- **What**, if anything, do you know about the person being detained?

- Call the family and/or emergency contact of the person being detained, if you know who they are.
- Write down everything you remember about what you witnessed.
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