



Immigration Legal Services
(415) 306-0437 / (415) 454-2640
immigration@canalalliance.org

www.canalalliance.org

Facebook: Canal Alliance

Marin Rapid Response Network Hotline:
(415) 991-4545

The sources for this information can be found at the following websites:
<https://www.ilrc.org/>; <https://cliniclegal.org/>;
<https://missionassetfund.org/>



Guide for Immigrants in Marin: Prepare yourself for every possibility

Rights



Family Plan



Legal Options



Know Your Rights

Everyone, regardless of their legal status, has constitutional rights when confronted by immigration authorities.

In the event of an interaction with ICE or other immigration or police officials, remember that you have these rights:

- ❖ You have the right to NOT OPEN THE DOOR of your house.
 - To enter your house without your *consent*, immigration officials need a judicial warrant.
 - It is very unlikely that ICE will have this warrant.
 - If the officials do not identify themselves, you should ask them where they are from to confirm whether or not they are ICE. They have the legal obligation to answer this question.
- ❖ You have the right TO REMAIN SILENT.
 - If the officials enter your home, or they stop you in the street or in your car, you do not have to speak with them.
 - You can tell them, "I WISH TO REMAIN SILENT" or simply show them your red card.
 - If ICE stops you in the street, ask AM I FREE TO GO before you say anything else, and then remain silent.
- ❖ You have the right TO A LAWYER.
 - You or your family have to contact and pay them, but you should do so as soon as you are detained.
- ❖ You have the right to NOT SIGN ANYTHING.
 - If the immigration officials try to make you sign documents that you do not understand, or that you do not want to sign, do not sign them before talking to your lawyer.

Always carry your red card: it will help you protect your rights.

Consulates in San Francisco

Certain countries have consulates in San Francisco. It is a good idea to contact them to get or renew your passport, request birth certificates, and receive pertinent information.

1. **Consulate General of México**
532 Folsom St,
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 354-1700
<https://consulmex.sre.gob.mx/sanfrancisco/>
2. **Consulate General of Guatemala**
544 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 100
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 563-8319
<https://www.facebook.com/conssanfranciscogt/>
3. **Consulate General of El Salvador**
507 Polk Street, Suite 280
San Francisco CA 94102
(415) 771-8524
<http://www.elsalvadorsf.org/>
4. **Honduran Consulate**
870 Market Street, Suite 449
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 392-0076

The Mexican, El Salvadoran, and Guatemalan consulates have also published telephone numbers to call in the case of an emergency:

México: 415-699-1885
El Salvador: 415-685-9396
Guatemala: 510-816-3645

Local Resources

Canal Alliance's website has many links and useful documents for the immigrant community. Marin County also has various useful resources for immigrants.

Legal services:

1. **Canal Alliance:** We can help with the following immigration benefits:
 - a. * Asylum for minors * American citizenship * Citizenship classes * Know Your Rights * Legal consultations * Temporary Protected Status (TPS) * Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) * Renewals * VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) * T Visa * U Visa
2. **Social Justice Collaborative:** Removal Defense. You can make an appointment by calling **510-992-3964** or going here:
<http://socialjusticecollaborative.org/schedule-an-appointment/>
3. **Family and Children's Law Center:** You can go here for family cases and Guardianship. **415-492-9230** <http://www.faclc.org/>
4. **Legal Aid of Marin:** This organization can help with housing and employment law. **415-492-0230** <https://legalaidmarin.org/>
5. **Marin County Law Library:** Free 20 minute consultations are now offered the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Arrive at 3:30 to sign up **415-472-3733**
<https://www.marincountylawlibrary.org/>

Health and Human Services:

1. **Marin Community Clinic:** You can go here for a variety of resources and medical help. Call **415-448-1500** or visit <http://www.marinclinic.org/>
2. **Marin County Office of Emergency Services:** food, shelter, mental health services. Call **415-473-7250**

Social Services:

1. **Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California:** equal housing opportunities and education; fair housing law and protection. Call **415-457-5025**
2. **North Marin Community Services:** food, housing assistance, job-seeking, legal services for low-income community members. Wilson Ave Center: **415-892-1643**; Novato Blvd Center: **415-897-4147** <https://www.northmarincs.org/>
3. **West Marin Community Services:** Food pantry, immigrant support programs, emergency assistance, education **415-663-8361**
<https://westmarincommunityservices.org/>

Family Emergency Plan

Families at risk of being deported should prepare themselves in case they are detained by immigration officials.

1. Start by talking with your family about what to do in case of an emergency. It is important that everyone know your plan, in order to reduce the stress of the unexpected.
2. If your children are old enough to understand, include them in the planning, but **be sensitive to how your words might affect their emotional and mental state.**
3. Consult with a lawyer or a recognized non-profit offering immigration legal services, in order to determine what the immigration options are for you and your family. Keep all of your information with your list of emergency contacts.
4. Make a plan for the care of your children:
 - a. Inform yourself about the Caregiver's Affidavit, a document that give the necessary authorization to a designated caregiver in order to be able to make decisions for your children in school or at the doctor.
 - b. Document all of your children's needs, such as medical conditions, and school information.
 - c. If you don't have them, get passports for your children.
5. Share your emergency plan with family & emergency contacts.
6. Keep all important documents in a secure place in your house; tell your relatives & emergency contacts where to find them.
7. For more information about providing temporary guardianship or custody to a friend or family member, please contact a lawyer that specializes in family matters, like **Family and Children's Law Center** <http://www.faclc.org/>

To locate someone who has been detained by ICE, you can visit this website:
<https://locator.ice.gov/odls/#/index>

Financial Preparedness

Saving money for immigration emergencies can help with extra costs as well as general financial preparedness in the present and the future.

- ❖ **Protect your money:** If you do not already have one, open a bank account.
 - Set up online accounts so you can manage your money from anywhere. With online accounts, you can organize shared access to your accounts with people you trust. This means that if you are deported and your spouse is not, you can both have access to the same account still.
- ❖ **Make sure your bills get paid:** Set up automatic bill pay as a way of creating a monthly budget.
 - If you have an online bank account, you can then pay your outstanding bills from your home country if you are deported.
- ❖ **File your taxes:** paying taxes does NOT make you a target for immigration enforcement, and can in fact help for future immigration benefits.
 - If you are not a Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) with a Social Security Number (SSN), you should get or always make sure to renew your Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).
- ❖ **Power of Attorney:** This is a legal document that you can prepare for the case of your detention or deportation. It allows another person to make important financial decisions on your behalf. *For more information about Power of Attorney, contact Legal Aid of Marin, (415) 492-0230 or via their website: <https://legalaidmarin.org/>*

Who Can Practice Immigration Law?

Only licensed lawyers and accredited representatives who work at Department of Justice recognized organizations (such as Canal Alliance)



- ❖ In the United States, **notary publics** CANNOT practice immigration law. They can only witness the signing of official documents, and they cannot give legal advice nor assist with immigration forms.
- ❖ The people known as "**immigration consultants**" also are not authorized to practice immigration law.
- ❖ It is possible that people who claim to be able to practice law simply want to take advantage of their clients. Their advice can damage your immigration status, or even lead to deportation.

If you have any doubts about someone offering you immigration law services, you can come to Canal Alliance to determine whether or not that person is authorized to do so.

Medical Information & Emergency Contacts

As part of the Family Emergency Plan, you should prepare relevant medical information for your family members, as well as important contacts for them in case of your absence.

Doctor: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Clinic: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Dentist: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Phone: _____

List of Medications: _____

Medi-Cal or Insurance #: _____

Any other medical information (allergies, existing conditions): _____

Caregiver Affidavit

The Caregiver Affidavit is a document that establishes the ability of the designated caregiver to make medical and school decisions for your children in the case of your detention or deportation.

- ❖ Please note: this document is ONLY valid for California.
- ❖ This is a good option for parents who do not know when they will be reunited with their children, and who do not want to transfer custody of their children (which happens with Guardianship).
- ❖ The caregiver fills out and signs the form; the parents do not have to sign it.
- ❖ It is best that the caregiver be a "qualified relative" (a blood relative like a sister, uncle, grandparent, etc.) because they can make medical decisions for the children. If the caregiver is not a qualified relative, they can only make school decisions and medical decisions ONLY IN THE CONTEXT of school (like vaccines organized at the school).
- ❖ It is recommended that the caregiver be documented, because the children will not be at risk of being separated for a second time from their caregivers.
- ❖ For the Affidavit to go into effect, the children have to be living with the caregiver. At this point, the Affidavit can be shown to the school and doctor of the children.

To get an Affidavit, you can contact Canal Alliance or go online and download one from here:

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/caregiver.pdf>

Important Documents

Maintain a file with all of these documents, or copies of them, in a secure place. Let your children and emergency contacts know where to find them.

- Passport.
- Birth Certificate.
- Marriage Certificate.
- Caregiver Affidavit.
- A-Number (number assigned to you by immigration).
- Documents that establish your residency in the United States and the time that you have been physically present here.
- Driver's license and/or other forms of ID.
- Social Security Card or ITIN number.
- Birth registration for those of your children born in the United States but registered in the country of their parents' origin.
- Important information about your children, including health insurance and lists of medication.
- Emergency contact numbers and information about other important contacts.

On Canal Alliance's website and in our office, you can find the **Caregiver Affidavit** and other useful resources, such as the ICE Locator to find people in detention.

There are documents that you can carry with you, and some that you should not. If you are a permanent resident or you have a work permit, carry it with you. You should NEVER carry false documents. AB 60 Driver's Licenses are only valid for State purposes: do not use at airports or federal buildings.

Obtaining a Passport

