

Current Recommendations Safety and Security Preparedness for ECMN Congregations

*Related to concerns about an encounter with ICE or other law enforcement agencies
cooperating with ICE*

From the ECMN Migration Caucus

12/8/25

NOTE: These are recommendations from the ECMN Migration Caucus. This information is gleaned from various resources, both local and national. This situation is fluid and these recommendations may change. These recommendations are based on keeping people safe and obeying the law. This is not a substitute for legal advice from an attorney.

Designate Two Door and Parking Lot Minders

- Train for door locking, keep doors locked, monitor main entrances.
- Periodically, check outside entrances and monitor the parking lot; the parking lot can't be a designated private space. This is often where people are apprehended. ICE vehicles typically have licenses tampered with, are SUVs or vans with darkly tinted windows.
- Understand when ICE has the right to enter church premises – they must have a warrant (see [Samples of Warrants](#)), listing a specific person, signed by an immigration judge. Keep in 'twos' if possible when approaching officers.

Designate Two Leaders To Speak to ICE officers

- The rector, priest-in-charge, or warden is best
- These are persons that should have at least some basic knowledge of deescalation techniques

Building Space Considerations

- Designate private spaces to limit ICE areas of operation, including a large enough space to move larger groups of people in the event of an emergency. It is preferable that these spaces may be locked.

Building Notices - For Posting

- Post signage outside the building at all entrances, the same or similar to this template (available in Spanish and English):
<https://www.ilrc.org/community-resources/know-your-rights/solidarity-signs>
- Designate private spaces clearly indicate them, including the whole building and designated spaces in the building.
- Post information inside all doorways regarding when ICE has the authority to enter to enter the premise and what individuals legal rights are in speaking with officers (see Red Cards: <https://www.ilrc.org/redcards>)
- Include who is in charge when such an event occurs.

Other Considerations

- Let the congregation, tenants, and volunteers know about your current safety and security and provide any necessary training
- Revisit your church's social media policy. Do not post pictures and names of potential target members or guests of outreach ministries. Consider not posting events on pages that are not for closed groups.
- Be witnesses and record encounters with ICE officers.

Equipping Migrant Congregation Members

- Equip them with Red Cards (<https://www.ilrc.org/redcards> indicating their legal rights. Encourage them to post this information inside their homes on or next to entrances. Keep near all entrances to the building.
- Encourage them to make a family preparedness plan, in the event of arrest,
- detention and separation from other family members
- Share important contact information with members, including clergy/pastoral care contact information
- Consider helping members with day-to-day activities if their movements within the community become limited.

Important Contacts

- For specific questions or help creating a creating a more detailed plan for your congregation or a customary for interaction with law enforcement on your church property: Tim Kingsley, ECMN Security Consultant @ timk@ourcathedral.org
- For emergency funding from the ECMN Migrant Support Fund:
 - For non-legal requests such as food, rent, medical, or material needs: Rex McKee @ rex.mckee@gmail.com, Rena Romero @ rena.t@episcopalmn.org.
 - For legal requests such as consultations with local attorneys, if a member of your congregation is detained, all immigration related questions, and training for clergy to visit congregation members in detention: Daniel Romero @ xicanopastor@gmail.com
- In the event of an encounter with ICE, put these phone numbers in your contacts:
 - [Monarca Rapid Response Line](#): 612-441-2881
 - [Immigrant Defense Network](#): 612-255-3112
 - [Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota](#): 651-641-1011, if arrested or detained

List of Curated Additional Resources From the ECMN Migration Caucus:

<https://episcopalmn.org/blog/missioners/ecmn-migration-caucus>