



Early Learning Specialist/Home Visitor Procedures - If ICE Knocks on the Door During a Home Visit

- STAY CALM!
- Always have a cell phone with you on home visits with the numbers you need to call/text in an emergency.
- Have a plan to contact your site Coordinator, your agency, and other allies who can provide support and assist in watching ICE from the outside the family's home
- Plan to stay in the home with the family until ICE leaves the location. This may be for significantly more time than you anticipate.
- Have a plan to notify your own family about what is happening.
- Have a plan with your site Coordinator/agency to notify other Program families that you may be late or may have to cancel a visit.
- Work with the parents to make sure children are safe and as unaware of what is occurring as possible. This might mean continuing to engage the child in playful activities or reading a loved story.
- Help parents communicate with family members who are not currently at home.
- Support the parents – this may look very different depending on the situation (site staff should have previously had conversations with parents about their family plans for their children). Understand that this is very terrifying for the adults and in most cases this intensity of emotion stems from thoughts of being separated from their children. Be a calming influence on the situation. Remind parents to stay mindful of the child(ren), and support them in reducing anxiety.

According to leading immigrant advocacy organizations, like United We Dream, here are the basic guidelines for families on how to proceed if ICE knocks on the door of any home you are in:

- Do Not Open the Door. ICE cannot come in without a warrant signed by a criminal court judge. They can only come in if they are let them.
- Remain Silent. ICE can use anything you say against you in your immigration case, so claim your right to remain silent. You can say "I plead my right under the 5th Amendment to remain silent."

- Do Not Sign. Do not sign anything ICE gives you without first consulting with your attorney.
- Report and Record. Take pictures and video unless you are on federal property. Take notes of badge numbers, number of agents, time, car types, and exactly what is happening and being said.
- Use the Law to Fight Back. Get a trustworthy attorney and explore all options to litigate your case. If detained you may be eligible for bail – don't give up hope!