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Immigration family plan

How to prepare for a parent being detained

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As immigration raids have picked up in Los Angeles, parents at risk of deportation can create a family preparedness plan.

(Sarah Morris / Getty Images)

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

[Create a family preparedness plan](#)

[How to plan for childcare if detained or deported](#)

[How to get a child a passport if one parent is absent](#)

[Gathering important documents](#)

[Find immigration legal services](#)

[How to emotionally prepare your child](#)

[Children's books discussing immigration and separation](#)

Increased immigration enforcement across Los Angeles — sweeping workplaces, homes and grocery stores — has left many families worried about their future.

LAist gathered resources and spoke with legal and mental health experts to help immigrant families plan in case a parent or legal guardian is being detained or deported. This guide is meant to be helpful, but please consult a lawyer for legal advice regarding your specific situation.



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How to prepare if a parent or legal guardian is detained or deported

What information can help people most?

Share the reporting with those trusted in the community to widen its reach aka meet families where they are

Find immigration legal services

Hunsberger said in the worst-case scenario, if a parent or guardian is detained or deported, there are legal resource hotlines that families can contact to get resources.

- [Rapid Response Legal Resource Hotline](#) helps Southern Californians who were detained: (213) 833-8283
- LA Rapid Response: (888) 624-4752

You can also find an attorney in your area at the [American Immigration Lawyers Association](#) or the [National Immigration Legal Services Directory](#).

“If they don’t have an attorney, at least having the phone number of a trustworthy organization that they can contact,” Hunsberger said.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has an [online system](#) that can help you figure out if your parent or legal guardian has been detained, although the online locator [has had issues](#).

There are also [procedures](#) in place when a parent or legal guardian is detained by ICE, including visitation with their child, coordination of care and participation in any court or child welfare proceedings.

Thank you!