



## FAQ for Families of Indiana Residents Who Are Detained in Immigration (ICE) Custody

### My Family Member Has Just Been Detained in the past 24-48 hours, what do I do?

#### 1. Gather information about your loved one

- Full name and birthdate
- A Number

The A Number is an 8- or 9-digit code beginning with the letter A that an individual may already have if the person has any immigration paperwork, pending applications, previous immigration court cases, and/or prior deportation orders. This number may also be located on their ID bracelet at a jail (once they are in ICE custody).

- Criminal case number & sentencing documents from any ongoing/recent criminal cases
- Medical prescription information for any current medications

#### 2. Locate the detained individual at <https://locator.ice.gov/odls/>

#### 3. Consult with an Immigration Attorney (who takes detained immigration court cases)

### Where Could My Family Member Be Detained Right Now?

If your family member has been detained by ICE in the last 24-48 hours and is an Indiana resident, s/he will likely be held at Clay County Jail in Brazil, IN. However, ICE often transfers individuals without warning, so if you are trying to locate your family member, check the list of detention centers at the end of this guide. Where they are detained also depends on the time of the week that the person is detained; if they are detained on a Friday or Saturday, expect delays in being able to get up-to-date information regarding their whereabouts.

Note: If your family member is detained outside of Indiana, Wisconsin, Kentucky, or sometimes Oklahoma, your family member will likely be detained outside of the jurisdiction of the Chicago Field office which means they will not be held at Clay County Jail and their case may go forward before a different court elsewhere in the United States. We have seen some exceptions to this since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

**Online ICE Detainee Locator:** You can look up the location of your loved one anywhere in the US by using their A# (nine-digit immigration number) and country of origin OR using their first name, last name, birth date and country or origin in the Online ICE Detainee Locator: <https://locator.ice.gov/odls/>

\*Sometimes ICE enters people's names incorrectly so if using the name and birthdate search, try multiple spelling combinations, e.g. if you have two last names, try using a hyphen.

\*\*It usually takes a few hours before the person shows up so try at different times of the day.

You can also contact the ICE Chicago Field office at: (312) 347-2400. (Very difficult to get through).

### What if I find out my family member is still in a jail (criminal custody) but has an ICE "detainer"?

A "detainer" is when ICE puts a hold on an individual's release from Indiana's custody (either the county or the state) until ICE can come pick this up. Note: Detainers were previously prohibited in Indiana for a short period of time between 2017 and 2019 after an ACLU lawsuit, but are now legally permitted in all IN counties.

If your loved one has a detainer, they will likely not have received paperwork from ICE yet and may not have been assigned an A#. They will not show up in the ICE online detainee locator until they are actually in ICE custody. If this is the case, a good first task is for families and friends to locate an immigration attorney, especially a private attorney who also practices criminal law. Most nonprofits cannot assist until the person is detained in ICE custody.

Typically, a jail is only permitted to hold individuals for 72 hours and then has to release the person if ICE does not pick them up. (Though attorneys and community members have reported that certain IN counties violate this rule and hold people longer. If this happens you should contact an immigration attorney ASAP).



### How do I talk to my loved one once they are detained in ICE custody?

Unfortunately, most of the jails where ICE holds people in the Midwest only allow phone or video calls with detained individuals that have to be paid for, which makes contact with loved ones difficult and expensive. Once you locate your family member, look at the back of this guide to determine which service to contact about putting money on a “commissary” account so that your family member can get a phone call. You will need to add money to this account before the detained individual will be permitted to call you.

### Can I mail my loved one documents and supplies?

Check the jail's website before sending any mail to see what the mailing restrictions are. In general, you can mail letters, but be aware that mail is often delayed, and it is not confidential; it will likely be read by jail officials prior to being given to your family member. Also, a jail can confiscate letters out of the mail if deemed inappropriate. In general, you cannot mail snacks, supplies, or other items like books to individuals in detention. You can order items through commissary accounts to have delivered to individuals through the same account that you put money on for phone calls which will enable them to buy snacks, coffee, and supplies like shampoo and soap, etc. For some jails, you can order a book through Amazon.com (or other large retailers) and have it delivered to your family member if it is sent directly to the jail.

### What if I want my family member to have an immigration attorney?

Unfortunately, there are no free immigration attorneys in immigration court proceedings because unlike criminal court where there are public defenders, immigration courts are considered “civil” courts and so attorneys are not provided by the U.S. government for free. Nonetheless, it is a good idea to consult with an immigration attorney as soon as possible after an individual is detained by ICE.

It is important to find a licensed immigration attorney with experience in “removal defense” who represents detained individuals (not a notario or attorneys that do not provide immigration court representation). You can find a private immigration attorney who is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association by: <https://www.aialawyer.com/>. You can search for AILA attorneys who practice “deportation-removal” to find immigration attorneys with the right type of experience since there are many types of immigration lawyers. Additionally, there are non-profit legal service organizations with licensed immigration attorneys who offer legal representation for free (*pro bono*) or on a low-cost/sliding scale. In the Indianapolis area you can contact organizations from the list below:

- **Mariposa Legal (for Indianapolis/Marion County residents only)**, 317-426-0617, intakes via phone Monday-Friday between 1-5pm EST
- **National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC - Chicago Office) (for residents from all Indiana counties)**, Detention Hotline: 773-672-6599 (hotline is available on Tuesdays between 10-2cst/11-3 EST)
- **Law Office of the Cook County Public Defenders (for individuals with ties to Chicago, specifically Cook County)**, Hotline on Wednesdays 9-11 CST: 312-603-0045

### How do I know if my family member has a court hearing?

If you have your family member's A#, you can contact the Executive Office of Immigration Review (Immigration Court) hotline:

1. You can call the Immigration Court hotline to find out when/if their upcoming court hearing is. Call: 1-800-898-7180 and follow the instructions (in English or Spanish) to find out their next hearing date (press 1), the outcome of their hearing date (press 3) or the status of their appeal (press 4).
2. You can also visit <https://portal.eoir.justice.gov/InfoSystem/Form?Language=EN> to access the same information, if you have access to the internet.



## What if my loved one signs for a deportation order with ICE or is ordered deported by an Immigration Judge? What will happen then?

The experience after someone is ordered deported varies greatly, unfortunately. For some individuals, like Mexican nationals, individuals with passports or travel documents, individuals who entered on the visa waiver program, etc, physical deportations on flights or via bus can happen very quickly. For others, the deportation process can take a very long time especially if ICE has to wait for a consulate to produce travel documents or if your loved one is from a country that refuses to cooperate with deportations or has a difficult diplomatic relationship with the United States. In general, a few things to keep in mind:

- Deportation flights on “ICE Air” for Mexican nationals often (but not always) take place on Friday mornings from Chicago.
- If a person is transferred to Broadview Processing Center in Chicago, a detention facility in Louisiana, or other detention center outside of the Midwest, this usually signals that ICE is preparing or “staging” the person for physical departure. More recently in 2022, individuals have begun being transferred to Boone County Jail in Burlington, KY prior to deportation. However, immigrant individuals are also held there for regular ICE detention purposes as well so being held at Boone does not necessarily mean that deportation is imminent.
- In the past, family members could bring one suitcase of personal items to individuals being deported at Broadview Processing Center in Chicago prior to the deportation. This has not been permitted throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Family members can post money on their loved one’s commissary account; detained individuals will be given all money in their commissary account in cash or as a money order at the time of their deportation which they can use once they arrive in their home country to facilitate travel and purchase items.

## What legal rights does a detained person have in ICE custody?

- **Right to Remain Silent / Refuse to Cooperate:** A person has the right to remain silent until they speak to an attorney and the right to refuse to sign for their deportation. However, there can be consequences for refusal to cooperate with ICE later in the process (for example if an individual wants to obtain/retain voluntary departure) so consulting with an attorney is important.
- **Reviewing Evidence & Charges:** Detained individuals have the right to review any charges and evidence brought against them by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE). This includes the charging document called the “Notice to Appear (NTA)” or a final order of deportation (“FARO”) or order reinstating of a prior order of deportation. However, this right is limited, depending on people’s past immigration and criminal history. Unfortunately, these documents are almost always written in English only.
- **Court, Attorneys, & Bond:** If the detained individual has the right to see an immigration judge (which depends), then the individual has the right to hire an attorney to represent them. If the person has an immigration court hearing, they also have the right to file an appeal with the Board of Immigration Appeals for an Immigration Judge decision. They also have the right to request a bond hearing but whether they are eligible for a bond depends on many factors.
- **Talking to the Consulate:** Detained individuals have the right to speak with officials from their country’s consulate. Detained individuals should be able to call their consulate for free through the jail phone systems. You can also call the consulate on their behalf. Look up local consulate offices in Indiana or Chicago and if there is not a local office open, you can also contact the country’s embassy in Washington, DC. Here are two commonly requested consulate numbers:

[Mexican Consulate, Indianapolis Office](#) --- 317-761-7600

[Guatemalan Consulate, Chicago Office](#) --- 312-540-0781



- **Access to Health Care:** If your loved one has a prescription for daily medication, they should be able to access that medication while in detention. If they are not able to, especially if it is important for their daily health such as insulin for diabetes, it is important to flag this to the immigration attorney or your loved one's deportation officer.
- **Making Complaints About Bad Jail Conditions:** Detained individuals have the right to file complaints during or after their detention with the DHS Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties or Office of Inspector General about violations of their rights in detention or inhuman detention conditions.

### **I've heard that COVID-19 is spreading at the jail where my loved one is at. What do I do?**

Unfortunately, there is generally not a way of getting individuals in detention released from ICE custody solely because they are sick, even if they are actively experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. However, if your loved one has other medical conditions, especially respiratory conditions or is immunocompromised in some way, it may be important to consult with an attorney and share medical records about this condition to see if it may warrant submitting a request for a type of release called "humanitarian parole" to ICE.

When you talk with your loved one over the phone, ask them about their health symptoms each time you speak with them and write down notes that you can share with an attorney. If your loved one gets tested for COVID-19, ask them to request a copy of the medical test result from ICE and mail it to you.

You can also Check Mariposa Legal's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/mariposalegal](https://www.facebook.com/mariposalegal)) where we try to post any reports regarding COVID-19 in the Midwest detention centers. If your loved one is detained outside of the Midwest, you can also check the weekly reports posted by Freedom for Immigrants, a nonprofit in California, who is keeping track of reports from clients and attorneys about COVID-19 around the country. These reports are available here: <https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/covid19>

### **What safety precautions should I take for my client who is released from detention if I am concerned they may have contracted COVID-19?**

Because many detention centers are not making COVID-19 tests available, it is very important for all individuals who are released from detention to be aware that they may have contracted COVID-19 without realizing it. As difficult as it is, we recommend family members keep limited contact at the time of release until the formerly detained individual can obtain a COVID-19 test. Family members who have not been vaccinated may want to consider becoming vaccinated while they wait for their loved one to be released from ICE detention to ensure

### **Where can I obtain a COVID-19 test or vaccine for myself or my detained loved one once they are released from ICE custody?**

For individuals released and returning to Indianapolis/ Marion County, individuals can obtain free COVID-19 testing, vaccines and boosters, as well as health information by visiting the Marion County Health Department's website at: <https://marionhealth.org/homeslider/latest-on-coronavirus/>



## **Midwest ICE Detention Center Information**

**\*Detention sites under jurisdiction of Chicago ICE Enforcement & Removal Operations Office\***

### **Clay County Jail (Indiana)**

- Website: <https://www.ice.gov/detention-facility/clay-county-jail>
- Address: 611 East Jackson Street Brazil, IN 47834
- Phone #: 812-448-9051
- Phone calls: Detained individuals can only make outgoing phone calls from the facility using commissary funds. Family members trying to call individuals can call the phone number above and leave a message for the detained individual to call them back.
- Letters: Family members can send in letters via mail addressed to the detainee with the facility's address c/o Clay County Jail.
- Video calls: Any family member can set up a video by speaking with the receptionist or video calls can be set up by going to [videovisitanywhere.com](http://videovisitanywhere.com).
- Commissary Accounts: Family can put money on account through a company called [tigerdeposits.com](http://tigerdeposits.com) and detained individuals can use it for phone calls or for food/personal items. Money can also be deposited using the kiosk in the front lobby to deposit funds onto an account.

### **Boone County Jail (Kentucky)**

- Website: <https://www.ice.gov/detention-facility/boone-county-jail>  
[https://www.boonecountky.org/government\\_administration/county\\_government/jailer/detailed\\_inmate\\_information.php](https://www.boonecountky.org/government_administration/county_government/jailer/detailed_inmate_information.php)
- Address: 3020 Conrad Lane, Burlington, KY 41005
- Phone #: (859) 334-2143
- Phone calls: Detained individuals can only make outgoing phone calls from the facility using commissary funds. To place money in a detained individual's account visit [www.inmatesales.com](http://www.inmatesales.com) or call 877-998-5678.
- Video calls: Available through <https://www.iwebvisit.com/>
- Commissary Accounts: Family can put money on account through company called JailATM: [www.jailatm.com](http://www.jailatm.com) or money can be deposited into a detainee's account using the public kiosk in the jail lobby.

### **Dodge County Detention Center (Wisconsin)**

- Website: <https://www.ice.gov/detention-facility/dodge-detention-facility>;
- Address: 141 N. Main Street, Juneau, WI, 53039
- Phone #: (920) 386-3743
- Phone calls: Detained individuals can only make outgoing phone calls from the facility using commissary funds. Family members trying to call individuals can call the phone number above and leave a message for the detained individual to call them back.
- Video calls: Any family member can set up a video visit at <https://www.gettingout.com>.
- Commissary Accounts: Family can put money on an account through a company called Connect Network: <https://web.connectnetwork.com/facilities/dodge-county-wi-detention-facility/> and detained individuals can use it for phone calls or for food/personal items. To make a Trust Fund deposit via their automated phone system, be sure to reference the "Site ID #" listed.



### **Kay County Detention Center (Oklahoma)**

- **Website:** <https://www.ice.gov/detain/detention-facilities/kay-county-detention-center>
- **Address:** 1101 West Dry Road Newkirk, OK 74647
- **Phone #:** 580- 362-3393
- **Phone calls:** Detained individuals can only make outgoing phone calls from the facility using commissary funds. Family members can use a company called City Tele Coin <https://www.citytelecoin.com> to buy calling cards (so detained individuals can make calls at any time) or put minutes in detained individuals account which ensures those minutes are used to only contact them.
- **Letters:** Letters sent to detainees must include the last four digits of the detainee's A-Number (Alien Number), plus the sender's name and address. The facility will screen and inspect mail. Detainees may send mail from the facility. All incoming mail will be delivered to the detainee, and outgoing mail will be routed to the proper postal office within 24 hours of receipt by facility staff. A mail pick-up and delivery schedule is posted in all housing units.
- **Video calls:** Any family member can set up a video by going to <https://www.citytelecoin.com>. To video chat and send emails using the app or the City Tele Coin website, select Kay County Jail to set up a remote account for the detained individual. Video visitations are monitored and visitors must follow visitor guidelines. Visitors that are found to violate these guidelines, will have their visitation privileges suspended.
- **Commissary Accounts:** Family can put money on account through a company called [tigerdeposits.com](http://tigerdeposits.com) and detained individuals can use it for food/personal items.

*This information is updated as of June 15, 2022.*

*Jails can and do change policies frequently. If you encounter any errors, please let us know so we can update this sheet for the community by emailing [hannah@mariposalegal.org](mailto:hannah@mariposalegal.org). Thank you.*