

## FAQ: Immigration resources

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### What can I do to help people who are experiencing an immigration crisis?

Many community members have contacted City officials to ask what they can do to help immigrant and refugee residents who are experiencing distress. There are many ways people or organizations can support their immigrant and refugee neighbors, including the following:

- **Support legal service organizations** that perform critical on-the-ground work giving legal advice to impacted community members.
- **Pay an immigration bond.** Immigrants who are detained and who may have immigration options often have expensive immigration bonds that they can't pay. Minnesota Freedom Fund is one organization that helps to pay immigration bonds. More information is at [minnesotafreedomfund.org](http://minnesotafreedomfund.org).
- **Use your expertise.** Do you speak another language, are you a doctor or other medical professional, are you a lawyer, writer, member of a faith based institution? Contact OIRA to be connected to volunteer opportunities where you can use your expertise to help impacted residents.
- **Contact your neighborhood organization.** Many neighborhood organizations in Minneapolis are working hard to support immigrant and refugee community members. A list of these organizations is at [minneapolismn.gov/ncr/links](http://minneapolismn.gov/ncr/links).
- **Contact City, State and federal elected officials** to share opinions on immigration. Find your elected representatives here:
  - City of Minneapolis [minneapolismn.gov/council](http://minneapolismn.gov/council)
  - State Legislature: [www.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.leg.state.mn.us)
  - U.S. House of Representatives [house.gov](http://house.gov)
  - U.S. Senate: [senate.gov/senators](http://senate.gov/senators)

### What other resources exist to help me understand my rights?

The Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (OIRA) website, [minneapolismn.gov/ncr/oira](http://minneapolismn.gov/ncr/oira), has a list of resources where people can find more information, including links and contact information for immigration legal service organizations and other resources. People can also sign up for the OIRA immigration bulletin to get up-to-date information about immigration related issues.

OIRA works in conjunction with elected officials and community partners to host forums and clinics to help people learn more about immigration and know their rights information. Contact OIRA at [michelle.rivero@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:michelle.rivero@minneapolismn.gov), 612-357-1875 for help setting up or finding immigration forums or clinics.

### How can I find an immigration attorney who can help me understand my rights?

The City of Minneapolis contracts with several nonprofit organizations with lawyers on staff. One of these organizations, Volunteer Lawyers Network, has a network of legal clinics in the metro area where you can walk in without an appointment and meet with an experienced immigration lawyer. A list of VLN's legal clinics where immigration advice is provided can be found at [vlmn.org/clinics/immigration](http://vlmn.org/clinics/immigration).

Many additional legal resources can be found on the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs webpage: [minneapolismn.gov/ncr/oira](http://minneapolismn.gov/ncr/oira).

### **Where does the City stand regarding ICE enforcement efforts?**

The City of Minneapolis is focused on the safety of our community, and we know that aggressive ICE enforcement efforts make our community members feel unsafe. As soon as City officials hear about an incident, they work to confirm whether that incident actually took place. They also coordinate City resources to provide support to community members. This includes working with our community partners to ensure that people living in Minneapolis have access to legal help and other support.

### **What happened during the July 15 ICE operation?**

An organization named MIRAC reported Monday, July 15 that an Immigration and Customs (ICE) enforcement operation took place earlier in the day in Minneapolis. MIRAC reported that ICE agents broke through the back window of a car to access an individual who refused to open his car door, and took that person into custody. It was also reported that a bystander was warned by ICE agents not to approach. City officials have confirmed that this ICE enforcement activity did indeed take place on Monday morning.

### **Was this an ICE raid?**

This incident was not an ICE raid. A raid is a large-scale ICE enforcement operation. This was a targeted enforcement operation against a single individual. Not only is it inaccurate to call activity of this scale “a raid,” doing so needlessly increases tensions and fear in affected communities.

### **Has the City contacted ICE or our federal congressional delegation about this incident?**

The City of Minneapolis is in communication with ICE to express concern over the reported aggressiveness of this apprehension and will inform our residents of the outcome of this communication. The City has also reached out to our federal congressional delegation to find out what they can do to investigate this incident.

### **Was the Minneapolis Police Department involved in this incident?**

MPD was not informed of this operation and did not participate. ICE is under no obligation to inform local police of its enforcement operations and does not notify MPD of these operations in advance. Furthermore, MPD does not cooperate in ICE enforcement efforts. Information about MPD policies are available at [minneapolismn.gov/police/policy](http://minneapolismn.gov/police/policy).

### **Can ICE officers stop people in their vehicles?**

In certain circumstances ICE officers can stop and arrest individuals who are in their vehicles. This area is governed by caselaw, the United States Code and regulations. General “know your rights” information and more is available at [aclu.org/know-your-rights/immigrants-rights](http://aclu.org/know-your-rights/immigrants-rights).

Please note that ICE’s authority to stop and apprehend individuals is based upon the specific circumstances of each situation. While ACLU’s “know your rights” information is useful, the best resource for anyone concerned about immigration enforcement is a one-on-one consultation with an experienced immigration lawyer.