

## Massachusetts Muslims, Know Your Rights!

# ICE Basics

While CAIR-MA offers a comprehensive list of [resources for immigrants](#), the information below is focused on U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) due to recent “surges” in several states. As we have all seen, ICE is willing to violate the rights of immigrants and citizens alike, including using deadly force. *PLEASE CONSIDER YOUR OWN SAFETY IN ANY ENCOUNTER WITH ICE.* You need to survive in order to do anything else.

**Who do I call if ICE arrests a non-citizen?** Start with one of these hotlines listed below. In addition, CAIR-MA has [information](#) on how to find an immigration lawyer.

- Lawyers for Civil Rights, Immigration Defense Hotline: (617) 988-0606
- National Lawyers Guild hotline: (617) 433-8353

**Can ICE enter my home without my permission?** ICE agents need a warrant from a U.S. District Court (called a “judicial warrant”) to enter your home. If ICE comes to the door, ask to see the warrant. If it is a valid warrant from a court, you must let ICE in. Stay calm and cooperate to avoid being hurt. If they don’t have a valid warrant, don’t let them in.

ICE has claimed that they only need an “administrative” warrant (their own paperwork; not a warrant issued by a court) to enter a home. That is not true.<sup>1</sup> The U.S. Constitution says that the government cannot enter your home without a warrant. ICE cannot change a basic principle of American law just because it wants to.

See examples of both types of warrants [here](#) so you know what they look like. However, if ICE agents force their way into your home without a valid warrant, do not resist to avoid being hurt. Whether or not they have a warrant, **you have the right to remain silent.** Do not answer any questions or sign any paperwork.

**If ICE stops me and asks for my name and immigration status, do I need to answer?** Usually not, with one exception: traffic violations. In Massachusetts, if you are driving a car and are pulled over by law enforcement, you must show a driver’s license and registration.

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<sup>1</sup> Although we have not seen this happen in Massachusetts as of the date of this flyer, a [lawsuit](#) was filed in Boston on Jan. 30, 2026, asking the federal court to order prevent ICE from entering homes without a judicial warrant. It will take many months, possibly longer, for the federal court to make any decision.

As for immigration status, you do not need to respond. Again, you have the right to remain silent. (And never give false information, which is a crime.) Politely ask if you are free to leave. If not, ask to call a lawyer.

***Should U.S. citizens carry a copy of their passport at all times?*** We don't think this is necessary unless you are often in situations that attract ICE scrutiny, or unless ICE is conducting sweeps in your community (which we have not seen in Massachusetts.)<sup>2</sup>

***What should we do if ICE comes to our masjid?*** ICE does not need a warrant to enter your parking lot or other public areas of your masjid. They are allowed to enter like anyone else. However, ICE cannot legally enter private spaces (offices, residences) without a judicial warrant or unless staff lets them in. All employees should be trained in advance on what to do if ICE shows up.

If ICE comes to your masjid, CAIR-MA suggests the following:

- Instruct those who are present – both staff and worshippers – to remain calm, not answer any questions about themselves or others, not confront or argue with ICE, and not run away. Masjid leadership should politely ask ICE to leave unless they have a judicial warrant.
- Call your local police to help keep the peace. The police cannot interfere with ICE but they may be able to prevent the situation from becoming more dangerous. Also, the more people who are present to witness ICE actions, the better.
- Call CAIR-MA at (617) 862-9159 to let us know. We cannot interfere but we need to know that this has happened.
- Call your members of Congress. They cannot interfere, either, but they need to know what ICE is doing in the communities they represent. They may also be able to bring political pressure on ICE.

***Can I film ICE agents?*** Yes, if you are in a public place and are not interfering with their activities. But keep your distance and obey orders to move.

***Who do I call if ICE arrests a U.S. citizen?*** Call the National Lawyers Guild hotline at (617) 433-8353 if you are arrested as part of an ICE “sweep” or because you are protesting.

***ICE watch/reporting.*** If you think ICE agents are in your town or neighborhood, the LUCE Immigrant Justice Network of MA runs a hotline (617-370-5023 ) to verify ICE sightings. You can download wallet-sized card here. If you want to be part of LUCE's efforts, fill out their forms to help answer the hotline or to help verify ICE sightings. It is critical for those who wish to help to be trained by LUCE, to reduce misinformation and safety risks.

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<sup>2</sup> Non-citizens are already required to carry proof of their immigration status at all times.