

Community Safety Guide

We are a community that takes care of each other. This guide is meant to help you feel informed, prepared, and supported.

Traveling Through Airports

- Carry a copy of all travel documents (passport, visa, green card, or US passport) and keep originals accessible.
- Turn off biometrics on your phone- switch to a PIN password. You are not required to unlock your phone or provide passwords to border agents, but agents may detain you longer if you refuse.
- If you have an immigration attorney, carry their contact card. If detained at the airport, you have the right to contact an attorney.
- Lawful permanent residents cannot be denied entry for refusing to answer questions beyond confirming citizenship status, but may face extended questioning.

Prepare a Trusted Contact

Before the conference, share the following information with a trusted person at home:

- Full legal name, date of birth, and country of birth
- Immigration status and any case or file numbers
- Name and phone number of an immigration attorney (and/or the ICE detainee locator: 1-888-351-4024)
- Location of important documents (passport, birth certificate, any court orders)
- A check-in plan: if they don't hear from you by a set time, they should call your attorney
- Hotel name and address:
Ventura Beach Marriott
2055 E Harbor Blvd, Ventura, CA 93001

How to Document ICE Activity

- You have the right to record ICE activity in public spaces. Stay at a safe distance.
- Note: badge numbers or identifying info, number of agents, vehicles (including license plates), time, location, and what you witnessed.
- Do not interfere with or physically obstruct agents — this can result in federal charges.
- Report sightings immediately to the VC Defensa hotline: (805) 296-1119 or text ALERTA to (805) 870-8855.
- Upload videos to secure cloud storage immediately in case your phone is taken.

How To (Not) Engage With ICE

Whether or not you are a US citizen, you have constitutional rights during an encounter with ICE.

- You have the right to remain silent. You do not have to answer questions about your immigration status, birthplace, or how you entered the country.
- Clearly and calmly state: "I am exercising my right to remain silent" or "I do not consent to this search."
- Do not lie or provide false documents — this can lead to additional charges.
- Do not run. Stay calm.
- Do not physically resist, even if the stop feels unlawful. Compliance now protects your legal case later.
- Ask: "Am I free to go?" If yes, calmly walk away. If no, you are being detained.
- If detained, say: "I want to speak to an attorney." Then stay silent.

If ICE Comes to the Hotel

- If you see or hear about ICE activity at or near the hotel, immediately close the door of whatever room you are in.
- Conference classrooms and event spaces are considered private areas. ICE cannot enter without a valid judicial warrant.
- You do not have to open the door. You can ask agents to slide any warrant under the door.

What Makes a Warrant Valid?

A valid judicial warrant must:

- Be signed by a judge (not just an ICE supervisor)
- Name the specific location to be searched
- Describe specifically what they are looking for

An ICE administrative warrant (Form I-200 or I-205) is NOT a judicial warrant and does not authorize entry into a private space.

If agents enter without a valid judicial warrant, do not physically resist. Say clearly: "*I do not consent to this search.*" Note the time, badge numbers, and agency, and report immediately to conference staff.

Whistle Code

Whistles will be available at the conference. If you hear whistles:

Signal	Meaning
1 whistle blast	ICE or law enforcement spotted — heads up
2 whistle blasts	ICE entering the hotel or immediate area — take shelter now
3+ whistle blasts	All clear

If you hear any whistle signal, move calmly indoors, close doors, and check in with nearby conference staff.

Stay Up to Date on ICE Activity in the Ventura Area

- VC Defensa Hotline: (805) 296-1119 — call to report or learn about ICE sightings. Follow @vcdefensa on Instagram
- 805 Rapid Response Hotline: (805) 870-8855 — call or text ALERTA for real-time updates across Ventura, Santa Barbara & SLO counties. [You can also sign up online for text alerts.](#)
- 211 Ventura County: 211now.com/ventura-county-immigration-resources — updated resource hub for immigrants in the area.

Know Your Rights

Everyone in the US has these rights, regardless of immigration status:
• The right to remain silent and refuse to answer questions.
• The right to refuse consent to a search of yourself or your belongings.
• The right to speak to an attorney if detained. (If you cannot afford one, ask for a list of free legal services.)
• The right to make a local phone call if arrested. ICE cannot listen if you call an attorney.
• The right to a hearing before an immigration judge before being deported (with limited exceptions).

Local Organizations to Know and Support

- vcdefensa.org — Rapid response, Know Your Rights trainings, community organizing. VC Defensa [Check out their art supply swap on Sunday 4/12!](#)
- 805undocufund.org — Emergency financial assistance for undocumented and mixed-status families in Ventura, Santa Barbara, and SLO counties. 805 UndocuFund
- mixteco.org — Legal resources and support, especially for Indigenous communities. MICOP (Mixteco Indígena Community Organizing Project)
- elconciliofs.org — Immigration legal services, DACA, family petitions. (805) 486-9777. El Concilio Family Services
- immigrantdefenders.org — Removal defense, asylum, and immigration legal services for Ventura County. (805) 886-9136. Immigrant Legal Defense Center (ILDC)
- (805) 650-7592 — Free civil legal services including immigration. Ventura County Legal Aid
- causenow.org — Community organizing and immigrant rights advocacy. CAUSE (Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy)

Questions? We're here for you. Email leannndra@dearhandmadelife.com