



# FAMILY PREPAREDNESS TOOLKIT

MAM's mission is to assure that families have the means to meet their basic needs. Just as families have needs for food, shelter, clothing, education, healthcare and the care and concern of people they love, families also have the critical need to be prepared for emergencies.

Today, immigrant families, particularly those without legal status and families of mixed status, are faced with additional challenges. NOW is the time to write down emergency contact information, to determine options for the temporary care of your children if you are not available to do so, to obtain information about your rights as an immigrant, to find out about your immigration options, to find a reputable, trustworthy immigration lawyer and to talk to your children about your immigration situation and the preparations you have made to ensure the safety and continuity of your family.

This toolkit and the personal, confidential, private information you write down is for YOU, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR LAWYER and only those you trust to have your best interests in mind. DO NOT give this toolkit or the information in it to the police or to ICE.

## TEMPORARY DESIGNATED CAREGIVER'S INFORMATION

Designated Caretaker of Child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of Designation Caretaker to Child(ren):

Sibling  Aunt  Uncle  Grandparent  Cousin  Friend

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Other Emergency Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of Other Emergency Contact to Child(ren):

Sibling  Aunt  Uncle  Grandparent  Cousin  Friend

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Other Local Relative \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of Other Local Relative to Child(ren):

Sibling  Aunt  Uncle  Grandparent  Cousin  Friend

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Faith Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Worship \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Your faith leader can be an important source of moral encouragement, support and guidance during difficult times. They may also intervene in your detention, and help care for your family.

# FAMILY PREPAREDNESS TOOLKIT



## MOTHER'S INFORMATION

Mother's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Location \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Place of Work \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor's Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Alien Number A \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Attorney \_\_\_\_\_

Attorney's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Bonding Company \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

## FATHER'S INFORMATION

Father's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Location \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Father's Place of Work \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor's Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Alien Number A \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Attorney \_\_\_\_\_

Attorney's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Bonding Company \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

# FAMILY PREPAREDNESS TOOLKIT



## OTHERS HELPING MY FAMILY

Immigration Attorney \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Other Attorney \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

What matter is the other attorney helping your family with? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

What does the organization provide? How do they help your family? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

What does the organization provide? How do they help your family? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

What does the organization provide? How do they help your family? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## PETS

Do you have pets?  Yes  No

What kind of pets? (Write in the number of each) \_\_\_\_\_ Dog(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Cat(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Bird(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Fish

\_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Pet Medicines \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who will take your pet(s) if you cannot keep them?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

# FAMILY PREPAREDNESS TOOLKIT



## HOUSING

Housing/Landlord \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Due Date of Rent/Mortgage \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of Rent/Mortgage \_\_\_\_\_  
Lease Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Person who has a copy of the lease \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

## UTILITIES

Utility Company \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Utility Company \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Utility Company \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Utility Company \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

## FINANCIAL

Bank/Financial Institution \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Web Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Account Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Username \_\_\_\_\_ Password \_\_\_\_\_  
Person who has this information \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

## AUTO

Vehicle Make \_\_\_\_\_ Vehicle Model \_\_\_\_\_  
License Plate # \_\_\_\_\_ VIN # \_\_\_\_\_  
Vehicle Location \_\_\_\_\_  
Auto Insurance Company \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Agent Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_  
Auto Insurance Policy Number \_\_\_\_\_

# FAMILY PREPAREDNESS TOOLKIT



## CHILD'S INFORMATION

Total number of children in family \_\_\_\_\_ Is this child:  Biological  Adopted  Step child

Child's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ City of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

State of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Country of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth (Hospital Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Child's Important Records (birth, medical, school, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

School Principal \_\_\_\_\_ Principal Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency School Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Classroom Number \_\_\_\_\_

CIS Worker \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

School Counselor \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

School Nurse \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Afterschool Program \_\_\_\_\_

Afterschool Program Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Babysitter/Childcare Provider \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

## CHILD'S MEDICAL

Check this box if ALL children have the same health insurance/health care  
 Check this box if ALL children have the same medical doctor  
 Check this box if ALL children receive their care at the same provider/clinic  
 Check this box if ALL children have the same dentist  Check this box if ALL children use the same pharmacy

Child's Health Insurance Provider:  Private Insurance \_\_\_\_\_

Medicaid  Gold Card  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Account, "Primary Insured" \_\_\_\_\_

If applicable: Member Number \_\_\_\_\_ Group Number \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Facility/Clinic/Office \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Dentist \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mental Health Counselor \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

# FAMILY PREPAREDNESS TOOLKIT



## CHILD'S MEDICAL *continued*

Medical Conditions \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Medication Allergies \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Food or Environmental Allergies \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Prescription Medication _____	Dosage _____
Prescription Medication _____	Dosage _____
Prescription Medication _____	Dosage _____
Prescription Medication _____	Dosage _____
Prescription Medication _____	Dosage _____
Prescription Medication _____	Dosage _____
Prescription Medication _____	Dosage _____
Prescription Medication _____	Dosage _____

Frequently Taken Over-the-Counter Medications \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Pharmacy \_\_\_\_\_

Pharmacy Address \_\_\_\_\_

Pharmacy Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Child's dietary restrictions \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# FAMILY PREPAREDNESS TOOLKIT



## CHILD'S INFORMATION

Total number of children in family \_\_\_\_\_ Is this child:  Biological  Adopted  Step child

Child's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ City of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

State of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Country of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth (Hospital Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Child's Important Records (birth, medical, school, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

School Principal \_\_\_\_\_ Principal Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency School Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Classroom Number \_\_\_\_\_

CIS Worker \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

School Counselor \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

School Nurse \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Afterschool Program \_\_\_\_\_

Afterschool Program Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Babysitter/Childcare Provider \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

## CHILD'S MEDICAL

Check this box if ALL children have the same health insurance/health care  
 Check this box if ALL children have the same medical doctor  
 Check this box if ALL children receive their care at the same provider/clinic  
 Check this box if ALL children have the same dentist  Check this box if ALL children use the same pharmacy

Child's Health Insurance Provider:  Private Insurance \_\_\_\_\_

Medicaid  Gold Card  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Account, "Primary Insured" \_\_\_\_\_

If applicable: Member Number \_\_\_\_\_ Group Number \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Facility/Clinic/Office \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Dentist \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mental Health Counselor \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

# FAMILY PREPAREDNESS TOOLKIT



## CHILD'S MEDICAL *continued*

Medical Conditions \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Medication Allergies \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Food or Environmental Allergies \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Prescription Medication _____	Dosage _____
Prescription Medication _____	Dosage _____
Prescription Medication _____	Dosage _____
Prescription Medication _____	Dosage _____
Prescription Medication _____	Dosage _____
Prescription Medication _____	Dosage _____
Prescription Medication _____	Dosage _____
Prescription Medication _____	Dosage _____

Frequently Taken Over-the-Counter Medications \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Pharmacy \_\_\_\_\_

Pharmacy Address \_\_\_\_\_

Pharmacy Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Child's dietary restrictions \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# CHECKLIST OF DOCUMENTS



- Important Phone Numbers and Information Sheet
- Designated Caregiver Documents
- Child Custody Documents (If Applicable)
- Child Birth Certificates
- Child Passports
- Child Social Security Cards
- Copy of Child Health Insurance Cards
- Child Vaccination Records
- Child Prescription Medications
- School Records for Each Child
- Medical Consent/Medical Power of Attorney
- Durable Power of Attorney
- Financial Documents (Bank Statements, Credit Card Statements, etc.)
- Housing Lease
- Important Medical Documents If Your Child Has a Health Problem/Disability
- Notarized Permission for Guardian to Travel Outside the US with Your Child
- Protective Orders (If Applicable)
- Parent Birth Certificates
- Parent Marriage Certificate (If Applicable)
- Copy of Parent Passports and Any Identification Cards  
(Driver's License, Social Security Card, ITIN)
- Any Immigration Documents (Immigration Court Documents,  
Copies of Immigration Petitions/Applications, Approval Notices, Old Work Permits)
- Criminal History Documents
- Evidence to Support Parent's Good Moral Character in the United States  
(This Could Be Helpful to a Future Immigration Court Case):
  - Certificates or Proof of Attendance In ESL Classes
  - Letters of Recommendation from Work / Performance Evaluations
  - Letter from Church
- Evidence to Show Your Time in the United States (Last 10 Years, if Possible):
  - Bills, Rent Receipts
  - Tax Returns
  - Apartment Contracts/ Lease Documents
  - Medical Records
  - Pay Checks
  - School Records
- Evidence to Show that Your United States/Permanent Resident Children, Spouse,  
or Parents Will Suffer Hardship If You Are Deported  
(This Could Be Helpful to a Future Immigration Court Case):
  - Family Members' Medical Records
  - Family Members' School Records
  - Family Photos
  - Family Members' Mental Health Records

**Keep these documents in a safe place and make sure everyone in your family - including your children - knows where to find them in case of emergency**

# HAVING A DIRECT CONVERSATION ABOUT A FAMILY MEMBER WHO HAS BEEN DETAINED



1. Assess your level of stress as a caregiver, and manage your own feelings first.
2. Recognize signs/symptoms of stress or trauma in your child:
  - Increased anxiety
  - Always being alert of danger
  - Trouble sleeping/sleeping too much
  - Nightmares or fears before going to bed
  - Worries and bad memories that take over one's life
  - Reliving bad events, as if they are happening now
  - Not feeling anything or denying any emotions
  - Irritability or anger
  - Sadness and crying that persists for weeks or months
  - Increased physical complaints (like headaches, stomachaches, dizziness)
  - Thoughts of hurting oneself
3. Assess level of severity: a child who is experiencing these symptoms may need to see a medical or mental health professional.
  - If your child, even young children, are having thoughts of self-harm, **seek professional help.**
4. Decide when and how to talk to your child about detention and deportation:
  - Consider the child's age, level of maturity, other stressors that are happening in the family.
  - Choose the best way to start the conversation.

"I want to talk to you about the people who looked like police officers who came and took your (mom, dad, brother, etc.) and what that means for our family."
5. **Invite your child to ask questions:**
  - "Maybe you have been hearing the adults in the family talk about something called deportation. What do you know about deportation?"
  - "Deportation is when a person has to go back to a country where he/she was born, even if he/she does not want to go. What questions do you have about what you have heard?"
  - **If a family member who is in detention will be deported:**

"[Insert the person's name] will have to go back to [insert the name of the country] in [two weeks]. It is not his/her choice. Remember, this is called deportation. You will stay here and be cared for by [insert the name(s) of the caregiver, siblings, or whoever you have decided to care for the child]. I can see you are feeling [sad, afraid, worried, etc.] about this. I want you to tell me about those feelings so that I can help you or get someone to help you understand this better."

# HELPING CHILDREN HEAL IN THE CONTEXT OF DEPORTATION RISKS



## THE IMPACT OF STRESS AND TRAUMA

Living under the stress of deportation can be a type of traumatic stress. The greatest stressor for citizen-children may be fear of parents' discovery. Similarly, the actual experience of a parent's arrest, detention, and deportation can cause or complicate children's stress and negatively impact their mental health (Zayas, 2015).

In addition to disruptions to their lives and separation from their parents, children and adolescents may face emotional and physical health consequences such as:

- Feelings of discrimination
- Reactions to their parents' emotional distress
- Worries about future education
- Negative experiences with authority
- Food insecurity and other economic hardship
- Under-utilization of health care system
- Poor school attendance
- Academic and conduct problems
- Regression (returning to earlier developmental levels)

Parents' legal vulnerability, detention, and deportation may also be associated with more serious emotional disturbances. Parents should monitor for the following and get help\* if children/adolescents are experiencing:

- Depression
- Anxiety, hypervigilance (an exaggerated need to detect outside threats), hyperarousal (nightmares, feelings of being in danger, anger, impulsiveness)
- Fear of separation
- Social isolation/withdrawal
- Self-stigma (shame, hopelessness, despair)
- Aggression
- Insomnia or sleeping too much
- Difficulty concentrating or completing tasks

Parents never want their child to suffer the negative effects of stress or suffer the aftermath of trauma. The following may help you to manage your child's behaviors and stress during these times:

1. Recognize and manage parent stress
2. Try to maintain a balanced perspective
3. Help children understand the limitations of being in a family with deportation concerns
4. Learn about common stress and trauma reactions (such as those listed above) that children and adolescents may have
5. Explain to your child that he or she is not responsible for what is happening, it is not their fault
6. Assure your child of his or her safety at home and at school. Talk about what you've done to make him or her safe.
7. Allow your child to express his or her fears
8. Maintain regular home and school routines
9. Be patient. Try not to push your child to "just get over it".
10. Consult with a qualified mental health professional if your child's distress lasts for several weeks.

\*Ask school counselor for an appropriate referral

# PLANNING AHEAD: HOW TO BE PREPARED IN CASE OF DETAINMENT

---



## Money – How Much to Save?

Have one month of rent and living expenses set aside. Expenses include groceries, utilities, car care, medical expenses, prescription medications, etc. Keep the money in a safe place such as a bank or locked away securely.

## Bank Accounts

- If you have a bank account, more than one person should have signing rights.  
Example: Both parents should have access or add an additional relative or trusted friend.
- Go to the bank and grant access now. Do not wait.
- Talk to your banker and your lawyer about options that will protect you, your family and your money.

## Pay Check

If you are arrested or detained, a family member or close friend must be approved to pick up your pay check. Make these arrangements now with the people who pay your salary.

## Medical Conditions

If you are pregnant, nursing an infant, feel ill after being arrested, take daily medication or have a medical condition that needs attention, tell the immigration agent or arresting office and ask to have medical attention provided.

## Medications

- If you take prescription medications regularly, either carry the prescription with you or carry information from the prescription label that gives the name of the medication and the dosage. (Take a photo of the prescription label and carry it with you.)
- Carry the phone number of the doctor or clinic that prescribed the medicine for you and know why the medicine was prescribed.
- You should demand that the arresting officer, whether police department or immigration agent, permit you to take your medicine or speak to a doctor.
- If you are refused medical care, or access to your medications, you should write down the name of the officer who refused this request. This is an important detail to include if/when you file a report with an appropriate agency in the future.

## Know Your "A" Number

If you have a pending case with immigration, you and your family members need to know your Alien Registration number ("A" number). This information can help locate you if you are detained. The "A" number should be listed on the Notice to Appear, Notice of Custody Determination, and any other document, such as a receipt notice for a pending application. Record this number in your phone in the Contacts list.

# PLANNING AHEAD: HOW TO BE PREPARED IN CASE OF DETAINMENT



## Lawyers

- Create a list of lawyers and phone numbers who have represented you. Keep this list with your immigration paperwork.
- If you do not already have an immigration lawyer, find a lawyer who specializes in deportation defense who may be able to represent you if you are detained.
- You and your family or close friends should have the name and phone number of your lawyer posted near the telephone at home or recorded on cell phones. If you have not hired a lawyer yet, post the names of several good immigration lawyers, a member of the clergy and/or community organizations in an easily accessible place in case you are detained.

## Passports

It is important to have a passport from your home country. Also, be sure to obtain US passports for all of your US born children so that they will be able to travel to your home country.

Note: It is much more difficult to obtain a passport if both parents are not available.

## Bonds

Know about bonds. Only US citizens and lawful permanent residents (LPR) can post a bond at an immigration office. Individuals without immigration status or individuals whose status is still pending before an immigration office should not go to the local ICE office to post bond. If you do not have a citizen or LPR relative, make sure to find a trustworthy friend who can post the bond for you. (Once your immigration case is over, the bond money posted will be returned to the person who posted the bond.)

## Documents

- Collect important documents in one place. Documents such as your passport, birth certificate and marriage certificate should be placed in a secure but easily accessible location.
- Tell trusted family members or a trusted friend where these documents are kept.
- All birth and medical certificates for your children should be kept in the same place.
- Carry with you, at all times, copies of documents showing that you have resided continuously in the United States for the last 2 years. Examples of evidence include: lease agreement/contract, rent receipts, utility bills, bank statements, car insurance, pay checks, etc. You could put photos of such documents on your phone.

Do not carry with you your birth certificate or foreign passport with which to identify yourself as this is evidence that you were born somewhere else. Do not carry any false identity documents or false immigration documents.

NOTE: The evidence is in case you find yourself in a situation where ICE **knows** you are in the country without status, but please remember that you can refuse to speak to an ICE agent and you can also refuse to show them any documents before you speak to an attorney. However, if you come into contact with ICE and they **do not know** your immigration status, remember that you do not have to answer any questions about your birth place, immigration status or how you entered the United States. Say that you want to remain silent until you speak with a lawyer.

# HOUSTON IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES COLLABORATIVE

## LEGAL CONSULTATIONS AVAILABLE AT THESE PARTNERS

### **Catholic Charities Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance**

(713) 874-6570 | [www.CatholicCharities.org](http://www.CatholicCharities.org)



#### **Immigration "Charlas"**

- Spanish language: Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 8:00AM at 2900 Louisiana St., 77006
- English language: Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 8:00AM at 2900 Louisiana St., 77006
- *Charlas are FREE information session explaining immigration laws with an opportunity to speak with an attorney. You MUST pre-register by calling 713-874-6570. Please do not bring children.*

### **BakerRipley (formerly Neighborhood Centers, Inc.)**

(713) 315-6400 | <http://www.immigrationforgood.org>



#### **Walk-in Immigration Legal Consultations**

- Tuesdays at Ripley House Neighborhood Center (4410 Navigation Blvd., 77011) at 9:00AM
- Fridays at Baker Ripley Neighborhood Center (6500 Rookin St., 77074) at 9:00AM
- *Note: There is a small fee of \$30 per family for consultation. Space is limited so arrive early.*

### **YMCA International Services**

713-758-9280 | [www.ymcahouston.org/ymca-international](http://www.ymcahouston.org/ymca-international)

6671 Southwest Freeway, Suite 250, Houston, TX 77074. Free visitor parking garage.



#### **Legal Clinics**

- Call 713-758-9280 to be referred to an upcoming free clinic appropriate to your case.

### **Memorial Assistance Ministries**

(713) 468-4516 ext. 187 | [www.helpherehelpnow.org](http://www.helpherehelpnow.org)



#### **Immigration Consultations**

- Fridays at 8:30 AM at 1625 Blalock Road, Houston, TX 77080
- *Note: First come, first serve (max of 8 people). There is a \$30 consultation fee.*

### **Human Rights First**

(713) 955-1360 | [www.humanrightsfirst.org](http://www.humanrightsfirst.org)



### **Tahirih Justice Center**

(713) 496-0100 | [www.tahirih.org](http://www.tahirih.org)



#### **Free consultations for families in removal proceedings who are seeking asylum**

- Fridays from 8:30AM - noon at Immigration Court, 1801 Smith St., 9th Floor, Courtroom #8 (the court is in the same place – previous address is 600 Jefferson St)

**For more details about these events and organizations visit: [www.houstonimmigration.org/events](http://www.houstonimmigration.org/events)  
Immigrant Rights Hotline: 1-833-HOU-IMMI (468-4664)**

# LEGAL CONSULTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT (located in Houston unless noted)

## General Immigration Law, including citizenship

<p><b>Justice For Our Neighbors Houston</b> (713) 454-6470   <a href="http://www.jfonhouston-etx.org">www.jfonhouston-etx.org</a></p>	<p><b>Boat People SOS</b> (281) 530-6888   <a href="http://www.bpsoshou.org">www.bpsoshou.org</a></p>
<p><b>African Law Center</b> (281) 624-6421   <a href="http://www.africanlawcenter.org">www.africanlawcenter.org</a></p>	<p><b>University of Houston Law Center Immigration Clinic</b> (713) 743-2094   <a href="http://www.law.uh.edu/clinic/immigration">www.law.uh.edu/clinic/immigration</a></p>
<p><b>Immigration Clinics at South Texas College of Law Houston</b> (713) 646 2990   <a href="http://www.stcl.edu/academics/legal-clinics">www.stcl.edu/academics/legal-clinics</a></p>	

## Citizenship only

<p><b>Bonding Against Adversity</b> (713) 471-5832   <a href="http://www.bondingagainstadversity.org">www.bondingagainstadversity.org</a></p>	<p><b>OCA – Greater Houston</b> (713) 446-8430   <a href="http://www.oca-houston.org">www.oca-houston.org</a></p>
<p><b>Chinese Community Center</b> (713) 271-6100 (ask for “immigration program”) <a href="http://www.ccchouston.org">www.ccchouston.org</a></p>	<p><b>Ser y Hacer @ The Children’s Center</b> (409) 765-5212   Galveston, TX <a href="http://www.thechildrenscenterinc.org">www.thechildrenscenterinc.org</a></p>
<p><b>Texas Center for Community Services</b> (281) 288-9592   Spring, TX</p>	

## Asylum, Unaccompanied Children, and Other Areas of Immigration Law

<p><b>Tahirih Justice Center</b> (women, girls, transgender women) (713) 496-0100   <a href="http://www.tahirih.org">www.tahirih.org</a></p>	<p><b>Human Rights First</b> (asylum) (713) 955-1360   <a href="http://www.humanrightsfirst.org">www.humanrightsfirst.org</a></p>
<p><b>United We Dream</b> (DACA, deportation defense) (713) 714-6452   <a href="http://www.unitedwedream.org">www.unitedwedream.org</a> Report a raid at 1-844-363-1423   Text 877877</p>	<p><b>Kids In Need of Defense</b> (unaccompanied minors) (832) 412-4937   <a href="http://www.supportkind.org">www.supportkind.org</a></p>

**Private Attorneys:** If you can afford an attorney, there are many immigration attorneys in the Houston region who are members of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA): [www.aialawyer.org](http://www.aialawyer.org).

<p><b>When you hire an Attorney,</b> ask them questions like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In what state are you licensed?</li> <li>• Have you ever been disciplined by a State Bar?</li> <li>• How long have you practiced immigration law?</li> <li>• What type of immigration law do you specialize in?</li> </ul> <p>✓ If the individual offering representation avoids your questions, consider finding a different lawyer.</p> <p>✓ Call multiple attorneys before you hire one.</p> <p>✓ YOU are the client and you get to decide who will represent your best interests.</p>	<p><b>Avoid Notario Fraud</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ A “notario” does not have specialized immigration knowledge or license to practice immigration law. Notarios may cheat you or harm your case.</li> <li>✓ Be WARY if a provider does any of these:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asks you to sign blank documents</li> <li>• Refuses to give you a contract for their services</li> <li>• Refuse to show you their license or accreditation</li> <li>• Guarantees positive results</li> <li>• Claims a special relationship to an immigration officer or judge that will benefit your case</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
--	--