

I AM AN AMERICAN!

What to do if an ICE agent approaches your child



Simple steps kids and parents can use to stay safe and protect their rights.

For Children — If an officer approaches you

- Stay calm. Take slow breaths. Do not run unless you are in immediate danger.
- Use your voice to get help. Yell clearly: 'This is an emergency — call my family at [HOME NUMBER]!' Say your full name and home phone number out loud so witnesses can call your household. Only say you are a U.S. citizen if that is true — do not give false information.
- Do not answer questions about immigration status. You have the right to remain silent. Say: 'I want to remain silent / I want a lawyer.'
- Ask to see a warrant. If agents say they have the right to enter, ask: 'Do you have a warrant? May I see it?' They can only come inside without permission if they have a judicial warrant with your full name and address.

- Try to remember details. If it's safe, note officer names, badge numbers, car numbers, time, and location. Ask a teacher or adult nearby to help record details.

If you are at school: tell a teacher, principal, or safety staff right away. Do not sign papers or agree to anything without an adult or lawyer present.

For Parents & Caregivers — What to prepare now

- Copies of documents: Place a photocopy of the child's birth certificate and a copy of the parent/guardian's Real ID or passport in the child's book bag or a secure pocket. Keep another copy at home and store a digital scan safely.
- Memorize emergency contacts: Make sure children know at least one phone number and can say it out loud. Post an emergency contact card in backpacks if possible.
- Teach simple phrases: Practice together: 'I want to remain silent. I want a lawyer.' and the child's full name & emergency phone number.
- School instructions: Give schools an emergency contact and written authorization for a trusted adult to pick up your child if you are detained.
- Record & report: If safe, bystanders should use their phone to record the interaction and note officer information. Keep a list of local immigrant rights groups and legal aid numbers.

About the reports called "Freaky Friday"

Advocates and immigration law organizations reported a new ICE action dubbed 'Freaky Friday' beginning October 3, 2025, said to target unaccompanied minors and offer payment for voluntary departure. Legal groups warned the plan could coerce children into abandoning legal claims; reputable organizations and news outlets have published alerts and press guidance. If you hear of enforcement actions in your area, contact local immigrant-rights organizations immediately.

Emergency Resources:

- National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC)
- American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)
- Know Your Rights guides — ILRC / Informed Immigrant / ACLU

Disclaimer: This flyer provides general safety guidance and is not legal advice. For legal help, contact a qualified immigration attorney or legal aid organization immediately.