

Safety Plan for Undocumented Individuals at Risk of Deportation

Being prepared in case of detention or deportation is crucial. This plan outlines essential steps to protect yourself and your loved ones.

1) Copies of Legal Documents

Keep copies of important documents in a safe place, such as:

- Passport
- Birth certificates
- Marriage/divorce decrees
- Work permits, visas, or any legal immigration paperwork

Ensure a trusted person has a copy of these documents.

2) Guardianship/Permission to Travel Letter

If you have minor children, prepare a **notarized letter** granting permission for your spouse, partner, or a trusted relative/friend to travel with them.

3) Children's Passports

Make sure your children have **valid, current passports** in case they need to travel. You can find passport application information at:

 [U.S. Department of State – Passport Services](#)

4) Guardianship Designation

In the event that both parents are detained or deported, designate a legal guardian for your children. This should be documented in writing—see a sample guardianship letter below.

5) Medical Records & Prescriptions

Keep copies of medical records, including:

- Vaccination records
- Allergies and medical conditions
- Prescription details and doctor's contact information

6) Safe Storage of Documents

Identify a **trusted person** who can securely store copies of all the above documents in case of an emergency.

7) Emergency Contact Information

- Memorize the phone number of a reliable emergency contact.

- Write this number inside your shoes, undergarments, or coat collar in case you are detained.

8) Emergency Call Chain

Create an emergency **call chain** by identifying co-workers, friends, or neighbors who will notify your emergency contact if you are detained by ICE or law enforcement.

9) Know Your Rights

If approached by ICE or the police:

- **Remain silent** – You have the right to refuse to answer questions.
- **Do not open the door** unless they have a signed judicial warrant.
- **Ask for a lawyer** before signing anything.
- **Do not carry false documents** or lie about your status.
- **Carry a rights card** that states you choose to remain silent and want to speak to a lawyer.

 **Stay calm, be prepared, and know your rights.**

Sample of guardianship letter

[Your Email Address]

[Date]

To Whom It May Concern,

I, **[Your Full Name]**, the parent/legal guardian of **[Child's Full Name]**, born on **[Child's Date of Birth]**, hereby grant temporary guardianship of my child to **[Guardian's Full Name]**, residing at **[Guardian's Address]**, effective from **[Start Date]** to **[End Date]** (or "until further notice" if open-ended).

This guardianship grants **[Guardian's Full Name]** the authority to make decisions regarding the health, education, and general welfare of my child, including but not limited to:

- Seeking medical treatment, including emergency care
- Enrolling the child in school and making educational decisions
- Providing for the child's daily needs and well-being
- Travel internationally for reunification with parent(s)

I affirm that this guardianship is made in the best interest of my child and that I remain the legal parent/guardian. This letter does not terminate my parental rights, and I may revoke this authorization in writing at any time.

If you have any questions or require further verification, please contact me at **[Your Phone Number]** or **[Your Email Address]**.

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name]

[Your Signature]

[Witness 1 Name] (if required) | [Signature] | [Date]

[Witness 2 Name] (if required) | [Signature] | [Date]

[Notary Public Signature] (if required) | [Seal] | [Date]