



About ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the principal investigative arm of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the second largest investigative agency in the federal government. ICE enforces over 400 federal statutes to protect our borders, prevent terrorism, remove dangerous criminals and enhance national security.

Parental Interests

ICE is committed to intelligent, effective, safe and humane enforcement of the nation's immigration laws. ICE seeks to enforce immigration laws fairly and with respect for a parent's rights and responsibilities.

What is the Parental Interests Directive?

The Parental Interests Directive complements ICE's existing immigration enforcement priorities and prosecutorial discretion memoranda, as well as detention standards that govern the custody and removal of individuals in the United States illegally, including parents, legal guardians, and primary caretakers.

The Directive is meant to aid ICE in enforcing immigration laws fairly and with respect for a parent's rights and responsibilities by outlining ICE policies and procedures concerning the placement, monitoring, accommodation, and repatriation of alien parents or legal guardians.

Who Does this Directive Affect?

With respect to several of the Directive's provisions, particular attention is paid to those who are:

- ❖ Primary caretakers of minor children without regard to the dependent's citizenship;
- ❖ Parent and legal guardians who have a direct interest in family court proceedings involving a minor or child welfare proceedings in the U.S.; or
- ❖ Parents or legal guardians whose minor children are U.S. citizens (USCs) or lawful permanent residents (LPRs).

How can this Directive Help me?

The Directive contains several important elements related to the handling of cases involving parents, legal guardians, and primary caretakers of minor children. It also addresses individuals involved in both immigration court and family or child welfare proceedings.



These elements include, among others:

1. **Designating** a specific point of contact within each ICE field office for parental-interests matters;
2. **Promoting** complete entry of relevant case information into ICE's data and tracking systems;
3. **Developing** processes to regularly identify and review cases involving parents, legal guardians, and primary caretakers;
4. **Determining** the appropriate detention placement;
5. **Facilitating** family court participation;
6. **Allowing** parent/guardian-child visitation; and
7. **Accommodating** the arrangements of parents, legal guardians, or primary caretakers who are facing pending removal for the care and travel arrangements of their children.

No Private Right Statement

While this Fact Sheet of the Parental Interests Directive addresses its effect on certain parents, legal guardians, and primary caretakers, the Directive applies to ICE and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by any party in any administrative, civil, or criminal matter. The security and safety of any ICE employee, detainee, ICE detention staff or member of the public will be paramount in the exercise of the procedures and requirements of the Directive.

Connect with ICE on your Parental Interests Inquiry

ICE Detention Reporting and Information Line: **1-888-351-4024** (8 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday)

E-mail: ERO.Info@ice.dhs.gov

Web site: <http://www.ice.gov/about/offices/enforcement-removal-operations/parental-directive.htm>