

## WHAT IS DEPORTATION?

**Deportation** is the removal of a person who is not a citizen from the United States back to their home country. Deportation is also called **removal**. Deportation happens after a person has been arrested and detained – either by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) if they are close to the U.S. border, or by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) if they are inside the U.S. People who are deported are often not allowed back into the U.S. for a very long time. Sometimes they are never allowed back in. **Anyone who is not a U.S. citizen can be deported.**

## THE ARREST TO DEPORTATION PIPELINE

Most people are deported after being convicted of a crime. The U.S. government focuses on immigrants who commit crimes because, it says, these people are a special risk to Americans. But that isn't the truth. ICE works closely with local police agencies anyway to find immigrants who have been arrested and then they deport them. This has made a "pipeline" where **an arrest for even a small, nonviolent crime can lead directly to deportation.** Being arrested is very dangerous for an immigrant.

Because of our racist police system, Black people are arrested far more than anyone else in the U.S. **This means Black immigrants are at extra risk.**

## IF YOU ARE EVER ARRESTED...

### Know that you have rights!

- You have the right to remain silent. You do not have to tell the police or anyone else who asks where you were born.
- You do not have to sign any documents. Do not sign any papers unless you understand exactly what they are.
- If you do not understand English, you can ask for an interpreter.
- You do not have to speak to any ICE officers while in jail. Ask for identification from everyone who speaks with you.
- You have a right to a lawyer for your criminal case. Your lawyer must tell you how your criminal case might affect your immigration status.

## HOW DO POLICE AND ICE WORK TOGETHER?

ICE cannot deport anyone until they find them and realize they are deportable. **The most important tool ICE has to help them find immigrants is the cooperation of local law enforcement.**

Police agencies often choose to share a lot of information with ICE, like who has been arrested and who is not a citizen. ICE officers may be inside local jails to talk to prisoners. Local police can decide to hold immigrants for ICE, and they can let ICE know when a non-citizen will be released from their custody so ICE can be there to pick them up. Some police agencies check every fingerprint they take against ICE's database, which lets ICE know whenever an immigrant is in trouble with the police. Local sheriffs can agree to have their police officers act just like ICE officers, giving the police new powers and putting more immigrants in ICE's reach.

These are just some of the many ways local police agencies work to help ICE find and deport people.

**IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO FIGHT A DEPORTATION ORDER**, but there are a lot of steps and it is difficult. You will want to get a lawyer who can help you apply for cancellation of removal, asylum, withholding of removal, or protection under the Convention Against Torture (CAT). This can be very complicated though, and it can be very hard to find a lawyer while in detention.

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