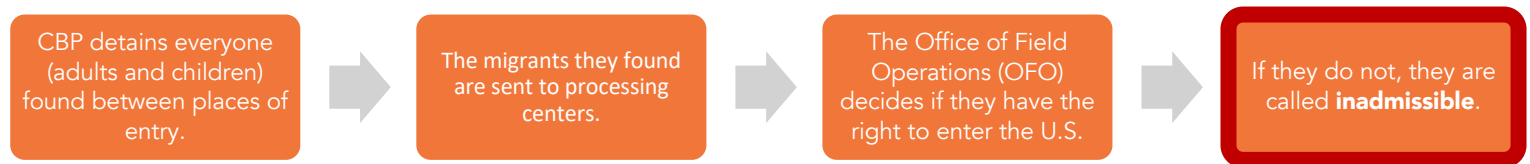


WHAT IS DETENTION?

Immigration detention is the practice of locking up migrants while they wait for a decision from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on their immigration case or for possible deportation. Although immigration detention and criminal prison look almost the same from the outside, those detained for immigration reasons are offered far fewer legal protections. Detention lasts as long as your immigration case lasts, which can be months. The quality of life inside a detention facility is generally very poor. There is a lack of necessary items and abuse is common. ICE and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) can detain anyone who they find and is undocumented, or anyone who is a non-citizen and has done certain crimes.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM DETAINED?



If the OFO decides you are inadmissible, you will either be detained for as long as it takes them to deport you or for you to finish your immigration case (could be months) or allowed to voluntarily leave the U.S.

If you fear returning to your country, TELL THE OFFICERS. You are entitled to a credible fear interview and to apply for asylum. A credible fear interview is a part of the asylum process where a person says that they are afraid of returning to their home country and why. An officer will decide if this fear is serious enough and if the person has a chance of winning asylum.

RELEASE FROM DETENTION

ICE is supposed to release people who are not a risk to public safety and who they believe will show up to their immigration hearings in the future. However, ICE often does not do this and instead keeps people locked up.

- **Bond** → Similar to paying bail in criminal cases, ICE may require someone to pay money in order to be released from detention. Unfortunately, recently the U.S. Supreme Court decided asylum seekers did not have to be let out on bond at all, meaning they can stay detained in bad facilities for a long time and not do much about it.
- **Humanitarian Parole** → Parole is permission to be in the U.S. for a limited amount of time. Humanitarian parole means a person is allowed in the U.S. for their own protection.
- **Habeas Petition** → ICE cannot keep a person detained for more than six months after deciding to deport them. A Habeas Petition is an ask to be released from detention if you are still locked up for a long time after they tell you that you will be deported.

YOU WILL NOT BE SEPARATED FROM YOUR FAMILY, BUT...

ICE can still watch you closely and make sure you do what ICE wants. They can require check-ins at ICE offices, track your cell phone, and track your movement with an ankle monitor. These “alternatives to detention” are like “digital prisons” – though you are not in a cell, ICE uses technology to keep you from being completely free.

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