

Immigration Violations

428.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines to members of the Alameda Police Department for investigating and enforcing immigration laws.

428.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Alameda Police Department that all members make personal and professional commitments to equal enforcement of the law and equal service to the public. Confidence in this commitment will increase the effectiveness of this [department/office] in protecting and serving the entire community and recognizing the dignity of all persons, regardless of their immigration status.

428.3 VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

To encourage crime reporting and cooperation in the investigation of criminal activity, all individuals, regardless of their immigration status, must feel secure that contacting or being addressed by members of law enforcement will not automatically lead to immigration inquiry and/or deportation. While it may be necessary to determine the identity of a victim or witness, members shall treat all individuals equally and without regard to race, color or national origin in any way that would violate the United States or California Constitutions.

428.4 ENFORCEMENT

An officer may detain an individual when there are facts supporting a reasonable suspicion that the individual entered into the United States in violation of a federal criminal law. Federal authorities shall be notified as soon as possible and the detained individual shall be immediately released if the federal authorities do not want the person held. An officer should not detain any individual, for any length of time, for a civil violation of federal immigration laws or a related civil warrant.

428.4.1 CIVIL VS. CRIMINAL FEDERAL OFFENSES

An individual who enters into the United States illegally has committed a misdemeanor (8 USC § 1325(a)). Generally, an alien who initially made a legal entry into the United States but has remained beyond what is a legal period of time has committed a federal civil offense.

Reasonable suspicion that a criminal immigration violation has occurred shall not be based on race, color, national origin or any other generalization that would cast suspicion on or stigmatize any person, except to the extent permitted by the United States or California Constitutions. Instead, the totality of circumstances shall be used to determine reasonable suspicion, and shall include factors weighing for and against reasonable suspicion.

Factors that may be considered in determining reasonable suspicion that a criminal immigration violation has occurred may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) An admission that the person entered the United States illegally.

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- (b) Reason to suspect that the person possesses immigration documentation that is forged, altered or otherwise indicative that the person is not legally present in the United States.
- (c) While a lack of English proficiency may be considered, it should not be the sole factor in establishing reasonable suspicion. When practicable, reasonable effort should be made to accommodate persons with limited English proficiency.
- (d) Other factors based upon training and experience.

428.4.2 IMMIGRATION CHECKS

Immigration status may be determined through any of the following sources:

- (a) A law enforcement officer who is authorized by the federal government under 8 USC § 1357 to verify or ascertain an alien's immigration status (sometimes referred to as a 287(g) certified officer)
- (b) Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- (c) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

An officer shall verify from a 287(g) certified officer, ICE or CBP whether a person's presence in the United States relates to a federal civil violation or a criminal violation.

If the officer has facts that establish probable cause to believe that a person already lawfully detained for another crime has committed a criminal immigration offense, he/she may continue the detention and may request ICE or CBP to respond to the location to take custody of the detained person. In addition, the officer should notify a supervisor as soon as practicable. No individual who is otherwise ready to be released should continue to be detained only because questions about the individual's status are unresolved.

An officer is encouraged to forgo detentions made solely on the basis of a misdemeanor offense when time limitations, availability of personnel, issues of officer safety, communication capabilities or the potential to obstruct a separate investigation outweigh the need for the detention.

428.4.3 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

When notified that an officer has detained a person and established probable cause to believe the person has committed a criminal immigration offense, the supervisor should:

- (a) Confirm that the detained person's immigration status was properly verified.
- (b) Ensure that the detained person is taken into custody when appropriate. Take any additional steps necessary that may include, but are not limited to:
 1. Transfer to federal authorities.
 2. Lawful arrest for a criminal offense or warrant.
 3. Comply with the TRUTH Act (AB 2791) effective Jan 1, 2017

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428.5 ARREST NOTIFICATION TO IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

Except as described below, it is not necessary to notify ICE when booking arrestees at the county jail. Immigration officials routinely interview suspected undocumented aliens who are booked into the county jail. Notification should be handled according to jail operation procedures.

Whenever an officer has reason to believe that an individual arrested for any offense listed in Health and Safety Code § 11369 may not be a citizen of the United States, and the individual is not going to be booked into the county jail, the arresting officer shall notify ICE or other appropriate agency of the United States.

Individuals arrested for other offenses who are not going to be booked into the county jail may be reported to ICE or other appropriate agency of the United States.

When determining whether notification of immigration authorities is appropriate, the officer should, in consultation with a supervisor, consider the totality of circumstances of each case, including, but not limited to:

- (a) Seriousness of the offense
- (b) Community safety
- (c) Potential burden on ICE or other federal agency
- (d) Impact on the immigrant community

No individual who is otherwise ready to be released should continue to be detained solely for the purpose of making notification to immigration authorities.

428.6 ICE REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

Requests by ICE, or any other federal agency, for assistance from this [department/office] should be directed to a supervisor. The [Department/Office] may provide available support services, such as traffic control or peacekeeping efforts, to ICE or other federal agencies.

428.7 INFORMATION SHARING

No member of this [department/office] will prohibit, or in any way restrict, any other member from doing any of the following regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual (8 USC § 1373):

- (a) Sending information to, or requesting or receiving such information from ICE
- (b) Maintaining such information in [department/office] records
- (c) Exchanging such information with any other federal, state or local government entity

428.7.1 IMMIGRATION HOLDS

Individuals should not be held in custody solely for a civil immigration hold under 8 CFR 287.7 unless the individual (Government Code § 7282; Government Code § 7282.5):

- (a) Has been convicted of offenses specified in Government Code § 7282.5.

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- (b) Has been charged with offenses specified in Government Code § 7282.5 after a court has determined probable cause supports the charge.
- (c) Is a sex or arson registrant.

In no event should a person be held under this section for longer than 48 hours. Notification to the federal authority should be made prior to the release.

428.7.2 NOTICE TO INDIVIDUALS

Individuals shall be given a copy of documentation received from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) regarding a hold, notification or transfer request along with information as to whether the Alameda Police Department intends to comply with the request (Government Code § 7283.1).

If the Alameda Police Department provides ICE with notification that an individual is being, or will be, released on a certain date, the same notification shall be provided in writing to the individual and to his/her attorney or to one additional person who the individual may designate (Government Code § 7283.1).

428.7.3 ICE INTERVIEWS

Before any interview between ICE personnel and an individual in custody for civil immigration violations, (whether in person or by phone, and including by being located in an area of the jail where ICE has the ability to approach the individual) for questioning: the Alameda Police Department shall provide the individual with a written consent form that explains the purpose of the interview, that the interview is voluntary and that he/she may decline to be interviewed or may choose to be interviewed only with his/her attorney present. The consent form must be available in the languages specified in Government Code § 7283.1. (Forms available here : <http://www.catruthact.org/resources.html>)

- The individual must be given a copy of the attached written consent form (Truth Form 1), which explains that the purpose of the interview is to investigate potential immigration violations, that the interview is voluntary, and that he or she may decline to be interviewed and/or may choose to be interviewed only with his or her attorney present.
- The consent form shall be provided in the individual's preferred language, as indicated by the individual.
- The individual may indicate whether he or she consents to the interview by marking the form.
- If the individual does not affirmatively consent to the interview by signing the form, the individual shall not be made available for an ICE interview.
- If the individual indicates that he or she is only willing to speak to ICE with an attorney present, the individual shall not be made available for an interview until ICE has scheduled a meeting with the individual's attorney, and the attorney is present.
- The officer must also sign and date the form, indicating that it has been provided to the individual in his or her preferred language and when this occurred.

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B. ICE Hold, Notification, or Transfer Requests, including I-247, I-247D, I-247N, I-247X

Upon receiving an ICE hold, notification, or transfer request for any individual:

- The individual shall promptly be given a copy of the request.
- The individual shall be given a copy of the attached notification form, TRUTH Act Form 2, indicating whether the Department intends to comply with the request. Any decision to comply shall be made in conformance with Department policy and the California TRUST Act, Gov. Code §§ 7282

7282.5. If the Department has not yet made a decision about whether it intends to comply, it shall so inform the individual, and shall also inform the individual when it expects to make a decision and the criteria it will use in making that decision.

- If the Department intends to comply with an ICE notification request, or has not yet made a decision about compliance, the individual shall be given the opportunity to complete the notification form with contact information for his or her attorney or any other individual the inmate chooses to designate.

- If the Department notifies ICE that an individual is being, or will be, released on a certain date and time, the officer providing that information to ICE shall promptly provide the same notice, using TRUTH Act Form 3, to the individual. The Department also shall notify the individual's attorney or other designee, using the contact information provided by the individual on TRUTH Act Form 2. If notification to the attorney or designee is provided by phone, the Department shall subsequently provide, by email, the attorney or designee with a written copy of the notice given to the individual on TRUTH Act Form 3.

C. Public Access to Records

Upon receiving any request pursuant to the California Public Records Act, GOVT. CODE §§ 6250-6276.48 for information related to ICE's access to individuals, responsive records shall be produced consistent with the Act's requirement.

428.8 U VISA AND T VISA NONIMMIGRANT STATUS

Under certain circumstances, federal law allows temporary immigration benefits, known as a U visa, to victims and witnesses of certain qualifying crimes (8 USC § 1101(a)(15)(U)). A law enforcement certification for a U visa may be completed by an officer in order for a U visa to be issued.

Similar immigration protection, known as a T visa, is available for certain qualifying victims of human trafficking (8 USC § 1101(a)(15)(T)). A law enforcement declaration for a T visa may be completed by an officer in order for a T visa to be issued.

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Any request for assistance in applying for U visa or T visa status should be forwarded in a timely manner to the Investigations Division supervisor assigned to oversee the handling of any related case. The Investigations Division supervisor shall:

- (a) Consult with the assigned investigator to determine the current status of any related case and whether further documentation is warranted.
- (b) Contact the appropriate prosecutor assigned to the case, if applicable, to ensure the certification or declaration has not already been completed and whether a certification or declaration is warranted.
- (c) Address the request and complete the certification or declaration, if appropriate, in a timely manner.
 1. The instructions for completing certification and declaration forms can be found on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) website.
 2. Form I-918 Supplement B certification shall be completed if the victim qualifies under Penal Code § 679.10 (multiple serious offenses). Form I-914 Supplement B certification shall be completed if the victim qualifies under Penal Code § 236.5 or Penal Code § 679.11 (human trafficking).
- (d) Ensure that any decision to complete, or not complete, a certification or declaration form is documented in the case file and forwarded to the appropriate prosecutor. Include a copy of any completed form in the case file.
- (e) Inform the victim liaison of any requests and their status.

428.8.1 TIME FRAMES FOR COMPLETION

Officers and their supervisors who are assigned to investigate a case of human trafficking as defined by Penal Code § 236.1 shall complete the above process and the documents needed for a T visa application within 15 business days of the first encounter with the victim, regardless of whether it is requested by the victim (Penal Code § 236.5).

Officers and their supervisors shall complete the above process and the documents needed for a U visa or T visa application pursuant to Penal Code § 679.10 and Penal Code § 679.11 within 90 days of a request from the victim or victim's family related to one of their assigned cases. If the victim is in removal proceedings, the certification shall be processed within 14 days of the request.

428.8.2 REPORTING TO LEGISLATURE

The Investigations Division supervisor or the authorized designee should ensure that certification requests are reported to the Legislature in January of each year and include the number of certifications signed and the number denied. The report shall comply with Government Code § 9795 (Penal Code § 679.10; Penal Code § 679.11).

428.9 TRAINING

The Personnel and Training Sergeant shall ensure that all appropriate members receive immigration training.