

Deportation Defense for Individuals

Below are possible deportation defense actions that can be taken after an individual community member or worker has been detained.

- **Help family/community locate the person who has been detained**
 - Check the **ICE Detainee Locator** to see if the person is in ICE custody. - [Link](#)- you will need the person's A number, and country of origin, OR, full name, date of birth and country of origin. [NWDC link](#) and phone numbers.
- **Connect the family/community to a lawyer** who can visit the person detained and find out what they are charged with and asses legal options.
- **Fundraise for Bond**
- **Collect letters on good moral character of person detained.**
 - Letters can be used in bond hearing to help reduce bond amount and in immigration case.
- **Provide moral support to person detained** - visit if not much family/community support.
- **Mobilize community support to attend bond and other court hearings.**
- **Accompany the person facing deportation to court hearings or meetings with ICE agents.**
- **Work with person detained and their family to understand their options.**
 - It is important for the person detained to make the decision if they would like their case to go public and start a public pressure campaign to support their legal case.

If the person detained and their family would like their case to be public then the below steps can be taken. (Thanks to NDLO for the [below material](#))

- **Determine who has the decision-making power to stop this deportation,** define primary targets, and figure out what you are asking for. Some possible asks and targets are:
 - **Lift ICE hold:** If the person is in local criminal custody with an ICE hold,
 - Targets = **local ICE ERO Office** can lift the hold. Second, the local law enforcement agency

- **Release from immigration detention:** If the person is in detention and has not yet been ordered deported.
 - Target = the **local ICE ERO Office** has the power to release him/her on bond or on own recognizance.
 - **Close Deportation Case:** If the case has not been decided, meaning it is to go in front of an immigration judge or is at the **Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA)** and no final order of deportation has been issued.
 - Target = **Local ICE Office of Chief Counsel** has the authority to “administratively close” the case.
 - **Stay of Removal:** If person has been ordered deported,
 - Target = Local ICE ERO Office can grant a Stay of Removal, which will stop ICE from enforcing the removal order.
 - **Deferred Action:** The local ICE ERO Office can grant this at any time during the process. ICE rarely grants deferred action, but it can be requested at any time.
 - **Additional Targets** = Local ICE Public Advocate, National Director of ICE and National ICE Public Advocate.
- **Collect the story and write the petition.**
 - Make sure it is brief, honest, and to the point. Humanize the person. Make people see their story. Identify a compelling fact that will help others relate to them.
 - Petition should direct people to email and call the determined target.
 - **Gather letters of support from elected officials.**
 - Look for Senators, representatives, city officials, or other federal, city or state elected officials who might be supportive of the case:
 - **Organize** with community organizations, churches, and other types of organizations that may relate to the cause
 - Write letters of support
 - Gather signatures and make calls (organize a call-in day)
 - **Plan strategic events to apply public pressure on targets.**
 - Community meetings, press conferences, rallies, vigils, etc.
 - **Get media to call ICE**
 - Urge any media covering your story to call the ICE office (or your targets) and inquire about your case.
 - **Escalate to direct action or civil disobedience**
 - To move your targets, especially as the deportation date draws near. This can increase the public attention on the case, which can help.