

INDIVIDUAL IMMIGRATION SAFETY PLANNING FOR CLIENTS

Talk with your client about what to do if contact with police:

- Even if no lawful immigration status, still have right to seek assistance from the police.
- When talking with police, always be calm and respectful. Never lie or present false documents. You do not have to answer questions about your immigration status, citizenship, or place of birth.
- If arrested by police, say you wish to remain silent and ask to speak with an attorney. If in jail, immigration might try to come visit. Do not answer any questions or sign any documents without speaking to attorney.
- If you get a traffic ticket, make sure to pay it as soon as possible, or make arrangements for payment plan or community service. Unpaid traffic tickets can result in arrest warrants.

Talk with your client about what to do if contact with immigration:

- **Do not sign any documents before speaking with attorney.** Do not be intimidated or tricked into signing. If you sign, you could lose your only chance to see a judge or get legal immigration status in the future. Instead of signing, ask to see a judge.
- **If you are afraid to return to your country of origin, say so clearly and often.** Those who are afraid to return have the right to an interview with an asylum officer. For people with prior removal orders, this could be the only opportunity to avoid deportation.
- Contact attorney or trusted family member.
- Contact consulate. Consulate might be able to help get in touch with family or attorney.

Help your client make an immigration safety plan:

- ☐ ***Carry important information at all times***
 - Any valid immigration document – ex: valid work permit, prima facie determination, receipt notices
 - Attorney contact information
 - If undocumented, copies of documents showing presence in US for last 2 years
- ☐ ***Gather important documents in one safe place and tell a trusted family member or friend where to find them in an emergency***
 - Documents that show your ties to this country, residence in U.S., and status as a survivor of domestic violence or sexual assault. You will need these documents to ask for a bond or fight your case. It is very difficult to gather these documents once you are detained.
- ☐ ***Make an emergency contact list***
 - This list will help your family members know what to do and whom to call if you are detained by immigration.
- ☐ ***Make a plan for minor children***
 - Identify a caregiver and make sure they are willing and able to care for your minor children in an emergency. It is best if the caregiver has legal immigration status, although it is not required.
 - Consider making a Special Power of Attorney to give another person temporary power to make decisions for your children in the event you are detained or unavailable.
- ☐ ***Make a financial plan***
 - Who will pay the rent or mortgage if you are detained? Fill out Financial Information Sheet to think through who could take care of your bills and financial affairs if you were detained.
 - Start saving money now to pay for an attorney or a bond in case you are detained.