



TO FIND A DETAINED LOVED ONE:

Tips for Using the ICE Detainee Locator System

1 Embrace Self-Care and Community Support

Searching for a detained loved one can be distressing. It's normal to feel a range of emotions, and it's important to care for your emotional needs. Reach out to others who are in a similar situation or to community mental health providers who are trained to offer trauma-informed support.

2 Gather Information Before Searching

Collect as many details as possible about your family member, such as their full name (including any alternate spellings), date of birth, country of origin, and any other identifying information. If they were detained during a specific event, knowing the location and date can also be helpful.

3 Use the ICE Locator with Awareness of Potential Variations in Name Entries

Sometimes, a person's name may be entered into the ICE locator system with variations. This could be due to multiple last names, alternate spellings, or if the person has used a different name.

Common issues include:

- **Multiple Last Names:** In some cultures, individuals may have both paternal and maternal last names. When entering their name, one last name may be used, both may be separated, or they might be hyphenated. If one version doesn't work, try other variations.
 - **Alternate Names or Nicknames:** If the individual has used different names or spelling variations (e.g., shortened versions, or middle names used as first names), try those alternatives as well.
 - **Spelling Variations:** Given differences in languages and alphabets, the way a name is entered in the system may vary. Consider potential differences in spelling, such as accents, missing letters, or incorrect translations.
 - **Use of Full Name vs. Nicknames:** Some systems may not recognize informal names or may use the full legal name, which could affect search results. Try different combinations of first, middle, and last names, if you don't find a match right away.
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4 Go to the ICE Locator Tool Directly

Visit the ICE Locator at locator.ice.gov/odls. Keep this website bookmarked for easy access.

5 Input the Necessary Information

You'll need the detainee's information to complete your search. The fields needed to fill out are:

- ✓ **Full Name:** The person's first and last name/s, and if known, the middle name.
 - ✓ **Date of Birth:** This helps narrow the search. Ensure to enter the date as required in the system, i.e. month, day, year.
 - ✓ **Country of Birth:** In some cases, the country of birth is optional but may help in more precise searches.
 - ✓ **Alien Registration Number (A-Number):** If available, this number is the most specific identifier for the individual's record in the detention system.
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6 Understand Search Results and Detention Status

Once you've searched, results may show different outcomes. The detainee may be held in an ICE detention facility, or their status could be under a different custody arrangement. Keep in mind that the database may not be up-to-date, and you may not find the person you're looking for right away. You may need to search again later.

7 Explore Additional Options for Help

If you're unable to locate your family member using the online tool, consider reaching out to:

An Immigration Attorney or Legal Aid Group: Legal representatives can assist in finding and representing your family member.

Nonprofits & Support Organizations: Many organizations help families find detained individuals and can help throughout the process. Look for local immigrant and civil rights groups.

Ensure that you know what type of professional/organization you're talking to: This will assist in preparing yourself to engage accordingly and set expectations.

8 Document Any Updates or Information

As you find new information, keep track of it, including dates and phone numbers of the facilities or caseworker contact. Having this on hand can make future searches or legal proceedings easier. It is essential to approach these situations with patience, both for yourself and the system, as these processes can take time. Keep a log of the locations where your loved ones to which they are transferred to.
