

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT BECOMING DEPORTED OR DETAINED BY IMMIGRATION?

The most important thing you can do is to **learn more about your rights and your legal options** for changing your immigration status. If you have children, you should also make a plan about what you want to happen to your children if you become detained or deported. **Use this checklist to keep track of your progress** toward completing your plan. It outlines the documents you should gather and the kinds of professionals you can talk with to help you create your plan.

More information about your legal options is available at: www.peoples-law.org/family-safety-plan.

The items on this side of the page you can do by yourself, and can start today.



Purchase a plastic folder to keep all of your documents in one place.



Gather information about your child(ren).

Find and use the “Family Safety Plan forms” available at: www.peoples-law.org/family-safety-plan.

- Medical Needs
- Childcare Info.
- Doctor's Name
- Contact info. for neighbors, & trusted friends
- Allergies
- Important Activities
- School information



Call your family, friends, and neighbors to get the most up to date phone numbers and address.



Update your emergency contact information with your child's school, doctor, and other places where you may leave your child for activities like dance class or tutoring. *Make sure to get copies of these forms for your folder.*



Find and make TWO copies of the passports of your child(ren).

If they do not have passports, but will need to travel out of the country, consider applying for one.



Find and make TWO copies of the birth certificates of your child(ren) and both of their parents.



Gather documents that show how long you have lived in the United States.

(For example, Tax Returns, Pay Stubs, Utility Bills, Leases, or Proof of School Enrollment).



THINK about the questions BELOW.

TALK about the answers with your family.

WRITE the answers down for your attorney.

Who would you like to take care of your child(ren)? Why?
How long do you want them to take care of your child(ren)?
What is his or her relationship to your children?
Do you want your children to stay in the U.S. or join you?

Do you give them permission to make medical decisions?
Do you give them permission to make school decisions?
Do you give them permission to travel with your children?
Anything else that is important to you and your child(ren)

WARNING - DO NOT LET ANYONE PRESSURE YOU INTO DOING SOMETHING YOU ARE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH.

This document was created by the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland.

Items on this side of the page involve learning more legal information.

A list of organizations offering FREE or low-cost legal services is available online at the People's Law Library by going to: www.peoples-law.org/directory. (If you do not speak English, ask a friend who speaks English to help you.)

WARNING - IF YOUR CHILD IS UNDOCUMENTED, FAMILY COURT CASES MAY AFFECT THEIR IMMIGRATION OPTIONS.

You can start learning the law before you meet with an attorney:

FREE LEGAL RESOURCES CHECKLIST:



1.) Attend a FREE presentation to learn your rights when contacted by immigration officers. Ask your school or local nonprofit about any events coming up near you. Or watch the video available at:

<https://justiceformigrants.org/home/news/video-resources/>.

2.) Learn the difference between a standby guardianship and a financial power of attorney. This and other important legal information is available at www.peoples-law.org/family-safety-plan.

Have an immigration consult to learn about your options for changing your status.

You should also make sure your children have an immigration consult too.

IMMIGRATION CONSULT CHECKLIST:



1.) Look online at www.justice.gov/eoir/list-of-currently-disciplined-practitioners to make sure the person helping you is not on the list of currently disciplined practitioners. If you do not read English, have a friend help you look.

2.) If you previously had contact with immigration officers, you should call **1-800-898-7180** to see if you will have to attend a deportation hearing or already have a prior order of removal.

Have a Family Safety Plan consult to learn about the legal documents you can use in Maryland to plan for what will happen to your children if you become detained or deported.

FAMILY SAFETY PLAN CONSULT CHECKLIST:

1.) Call the **Maryland Court of Appeals Clerk's Office** at **410-260-1500** to make sure the attorney is licensed to practice law in Maryland. *If you do not speak English, have a friend help you call.*

2.) Bring any of the documents that you have on the checklist with you when you meet with an attorney.

WHO IN MARYLAND CAN CHARGE TO TEACH YOU YOUR LEGAL OPTIONS?



	Immigration Consult	Family Law Consult
Attorney licensed in Maryland	✓	✓
Attorney licensed in other state(s)	✓	NO
BIA accredited representative	✓	NO
Notary Public	NO	NO
Legal Consultant	NO	NO
Attorney only licensed in another country	NO	NO

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