

Court Accompaniment Informational Toolkit

Know Before You Go: Immigration Court Hearings and ICE Arrests

Who Should Review This Toolkit?

- People with an upcoming immigration court date
- Companions, family or friends supporting someone going to immigration court

What Is Happening Outside Immigration Courts?

- Since May 21, 2025, ICE officers are stationed outside many immigration courthouses.
- Some people are arrested after their hearings, especially when the government dismisses their case.
- Arrested individuals may be placed in expedited removal—deportation without another court appearance.



Who May Face Expedited Removal?

- People who entered without inspection and cannot prove two years of continuous U.S. presence
- People whose parole (e.g., CBP One) was terminated, even if they've lived in the U.S. over two years

Who Is Generally Exempt?

- Anyone admitted into the U.S. (even if visa expired)
- People who can prove two or more years of residence
- Unaccompanied minors under 18
- Cuban nationals who arrived by air



Documents to Prove Two-Year Continuous U.S. Residence

- Bring photocopies (not originals):
- Lease/rental agreements
- Utility bills or bank records
- Dated medical, school, or job records
- Mail dated 2+ years ago

Tip: Carry documents in a safe folder to court.



If You Fear Returning to Your Home Country Tell the ICE officer:

1. "I am afraid to return to my home country."
2. "I would like a credible fear-screening interview."
3. "I fear persecution or torture."

These phrases pause expedited removal and allow a hearing with an asylum officer.

Before Signing Anything

- Do not sign paperwork titled Voluntary Departure, Stipulated Removal, or Waiver without talking to a lawyer.

Questions to Ask If Your Case Is Dismissed

1. Why is the government requesting dismissal of my case?
2. What has changed in this case?
3. What happens to me if it is dismissed?



Key Requests to Make If Case Is Being Dismissed

1. Request that DHS submit the motion in writing. (Technically the motion can be made orally at a hearing—so this might not work)
2. Ask for time to respond in writing.
3. Request the full 10 days to respond and find legal help.
4. Ask that the government provide evidence of a change in your case, not just in the administration's position to warrant closure.
5. Ask the judge to deny the government's motion.



Know Your Rights If Arrested

- Right to remain silent
- Right to an attorney
- Right to call your consulate
- Right to refuse home entry unless there's a signed warrant

Expedited Removal Consequences

- Deportation within days
- No appeal
- 5-year ban from reentering the U.S.
- Difficulty with future visas or family reunification

Helpful Resources

- Emergency Legal Help (ABA): Dial 2150# or (202) 442-3363
- Court Date Info: 1-800-898-7180
- Family Support Hotline: 1-855-435-7693
- Detainee Locator: ice.gov/odls

Action Checklist

1. Save resource numbers to your phone
2. Talk to an immigration attorney
3. Prepare two-year residency documents
4. Share this info widely

Preparing Loved Ones

- Plan childcare and emergency contacts
- Secure important documents (e.g., passports)
- Save money for emergencies

This guide provides general information and does not replace legal advice. Consult an immigration lawyer at ailalawyer.com.