



"Montgomery County is committed to building and maintaining a safe and inclusive community for our residents. Understanding, tolerance, and respect are hallmarks of the Montgomery County way. Social justice for all is what we strive to achieve in our County." –County Executive Ike Leggett and Council President Roger Berliner

**Montgomery County Office of Community Partnerships
Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center
Immigration Information & Resources for Providers
Frequently Asked Questions**

**This updated version replaces the Gilchrist Center's Community Guide
Updated 3.2.2017**

This guide is designed to point residents in the right direction and suggest resources.
It is not a substitute for legal advice.

Information contained in this document will be updated regularly to reflect any changes in policies or laws. Please check back often for most up-to-date information.

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/partnerships
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist

**WHAT IS THE LATEST ON THE FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BRANCH'S
ENFORCEMENT OF IMMIGRATION LAWS?**

On February 20, 2017, the Secretary of Homeland Security released memos on [interior enforcement](#) and [border security](#) that officially implement recent executive orders regarding immigration enforcement. Effective immediately, the memos expand deportation enforcement priorities and expedited removal, threaten protections for unaccompanied minors, and restore multiple programs that request state and local law enforcement agencies to assist in enforcing federal immigration laws. The memos also

instruct federal agencies to identify and allocate funding for a border wall and begin the immediate hiring of 10,000 more ICE agents, 5,000 border patrol agents, and 500 air and marine agents. Read the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) [Summary and Analysis of the DHS Memorandum on Interior Enforcement](#) and [Summary and Analysis of the DHS Memorandum on Border Enforcement](#).

WHAT DO THE FEDERAL EXECUTIVE ACTIONS MEAN FOR ME?

The following information does not substitute for legal advice. Speak with a reputable attorney or accredited representative for legal advice.

- **Be Aware of Immigration Scams and/or Notarios!** People may attempt to offer immigration benefits or protections that do not exist. Only seek legal help from reputable legal providers. To report immigration fraud, contact:
 - [Montgomery County's Office on Consumer Protection](#): (240) 777-3636
 - [Maryland Attorney General, Consumer Protection](#): English: (410) 528-8662, Español: (410) 230-1712
 - [Federal Trade Commission](#): (877) 382-4357
 - [Executive Office for Immigration Review](#): (703) 305-0470
- **Visit these websites to find reputable legal providers:**
 - Montgomery County's [Legal Services Directory](#) (http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/partnerships/Resources/Files/MC_Legal_Providers_Directory.pdf)
 - Department of Justice, Executive Office of Immigration Review's [Recognized Organizations and Accredited Representatives](#) List. (<https://www.justice.gov/eoir/recognition-accreditation-roster-reports>)
 - American Immigration Lawyers Association's [Immigration Lawyer Search](#). (<http://www.ailalawyer.org/>)
- **If you are undocumented:** you still have certain legal and Constitutional rights. You have a right to a hearing and the right to have a judge review your case.
 - ["Immigrants' Rights Under a Trump Presidency: FAQ's For Students, Educators & Social Service Providers"](#) ([Espanol](#)) from MALDEF provides an excellent overview of answers to common questions.

- **DACA Recipients:** The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (“DACA”) provides eligible, undocumented young people who arrived before age 16 an opportunity to remain in the U.S. and to apply for work authorization.
 - According to the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, as of February 24, 2017, DACA program is still available and the government is still accepting and approving DACA initial and renewal applications. Please read recommendations on what to do now in the ILRC’s [“DACA: Current Status and Options.”](#)
- **Refugee & Asylee Status:** If you were admitted as a refugee, you are required by law to apply for a Green Card (permanent residence) in the United States 1 year after being admitted as a refugee. As an asylee, you may, but are not required to, apply for permanent resident status after being granted asylum for 1 year. It may be in your best interest to do so. See a reputable legal service provider for help with this.
- **Legal Permanent Residents:** If you have been a permanent resident for three or more years, consult with a legal service provider about preparing to apply for U.S. citizenship. Many local programs such as [Baltimore City Community College](#), [Montgomery College](#), [CASA de Maryland](#) provide classes to prepare to become a U.S. citizen for no or low fee. If you ever have had an encounter with the police, do not apply for citizenship unless you have consulted with a licensed attorney.
- **Consideration for LGBTQ immigrants:** [FAQ's](#) from Immigration Equality about the new federal administration and how it may impact immigrants, including LGBTQ people.

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS IF A FEDERAL ICE AGENT ATTEMPTS TO ARREST ME?

The following information is adapted from CASA’s [Know Your Rights Guide](#)
(<http://wearecasa.org/derechos>)

Download and carry a [Know Your Rights Card](#)!

Know Your Rights.....

Right to Remain Silent

- You always have the right to remain silent. Any information you give to immigration agents can be used against you.
- If you are arrested by the ICE agents, **tell them that you are exercising your right to remain silent** and give them your **Right to Remain Silent Card** that can be found in the [Know Your Rights Guide \(Spanish\)](#)

Protection from arrests in your home

- Immigration agents who come to your home looking to arrest someone who they think lives there **must have an ARREST WARRANT**. If ICE agents come to your home, you should **demand verification of the warrant before opening the door**.

DO I NEED TO MAKE A PLAN IN CASE I AM DETAINED?

Residents should make a plan, consider creating a power of attorney letter ahead of time, and parents/guardians of students in Montgomery County Public Schools should update emergency contact information.

➔ **From CASA's [Know Your Rights Guide](#):** Anyone who is not a citizen of the United States must develop a security plan in the event of being arrested by ICE. More information on how to develop security plans is available in the full guide.

- Memorize the phone number of a friend, family member, or attorney that you can call if you are arrested.
- If you take care of children or other people, make a plan to have them taken care of if you are detained.
- Keep important documents such as birth certificates and immigration documents in a safe place where a friend or family member can access them if necessary.
- Make sure your loved ones know how to find you if you are detained by ICE. They can use ICE's online [detainee locator](#) to find an adult who is in immigration custody. Or they can [call the local ICE office](#). Make sure they have your alien registration number written down, if you have one.
- You can call the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) hotline number at 240-314-1500 or 1-800-898-7180 (toll-free) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to get information on your case's status.

➔ **Power of Attorney Letter:** please consult an attorney.

- ➔ Parents/guardians of students in Montgomery County Public Schools should update emergency contact information immediately using form [MCPS Form 565-1, Student Emergency Information](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/detail.aspx?formID=353&formNumber=565-1&catID=2&subCatId=5) (available in other languages) (<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/detail.aspx?formID=353&formNumber=565-1&catID=2&subCatId=5>)

WHAT PHONE NUMBERS SHOULD I KEEP HANDY?

- For questions regarding county services, residents can dial 311.
- To report raids, contact CASA's hotline at 301-431-4185.
- To report crimes and contact Montgomery County Police for non-emergencies, dial 301-279-8000.
- Consulates: If you are a foreign national arrested in the U.S., you have the right to call your consulate or to have the deportation officer inform the consulate of your arrest. Ask the deportation officer to see a list of embassies and write down the phone number. The consulate may assist you in finding a lawyer or offer to contact your family.

<u>African Union Mission</u> 1640 Wisconsin Ave., NW Washington, DC 20007 Phone: (202) 342-1100	<u>Indonesia</u> 2020 Massachusetts Ave NW Washington, DC 20036 Phone: (202) 775-5200
<u>China</u> 3505 International Place, NW Washington, DC 20008 Phone: (202) 495-2266 Email: chinaembpress_us@mf.gov.cn	<u>Korea</u> 2320 Massachusetts Ave, NW Washington, D.C. 20008 Phone: (202) 939-5654
<u>El Salvador</u> 926 Philadelphia Ave. Silver Spring, MD 20910. Phone: 1-888-301-1130 Email: correo@elsalvador.org	<u>Mexico</u> 1250 23rd St NW, Suite 002 Washington, DC 20037 Phone: (202) 736-1000 Email: consulmexwas@sre.gob.mx
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<u>Guatemala</u> 8124 Georgia Avenue. Silver Spring, MD 20910 Phone: (240) 485-5050 • (240) 485-5045 • (240) 485-5046 Email: consmaryland@minex.gob.gt	<u>Nepal</u> 2131 Leroy Place, NW Washington, DC 20008 Phone: (202) 667 4550 Email: eonwashington@mofa.gov.np
<u>Honduras</u> 1014 M Street, NW Washington, DC 20001 Phone: (202) 506-4995 or (202) 450-3146 Email: consulado.washington@hondurasemb.org	<u>Pakistan</u> Consular Office, Embassy of Pakistan, 3517 International Court NW Washington, DC 20008. Phone: (202)243-6500 Email: consularsection@embassyofpakistanusa.org
<u>India</u> Consular Wing 2536 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20008 Phone: (202) 939-7000	<u>Vietnam</u> 1233 20th St NW, Suite 400 Washington, DC 20036 Tel: (202) 861-0731 Consular emergency: (202) 304-2058 or (202) 716-8666 Email: vnconsular@vietnamembassy.us

WHERE DO I GO FOR TRUSTED AND RELIABLE LEGAL ADVICE?

The following information does not substitute for legal advice. Speak with a reputable attorney or accredited representative for legal advice. **Please be aware of immigration scams and/or notarios! Only seek legal help from reputable legal providers.** People may attempt to offer immigration benefits or protections that do not exist. To report immigration fraud, contact the [Montgomery County's Office on Consumer Protection](#) at (240) 777-3636.

- **Visit these websites to find reputable legal providers:**
 - [Montgomery County Legal Immigration Service Providers Directory](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist/Resources/Files/2016%20Community%20Guide%20FINAL.pdf) (<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist/Resources/Files/2016%20Community%20Guide%20FINAL.pdf>): comprehensive information on legal service providers in Montgomery County including intake times, costs, contact info (note: directory is being updated to include HIAS, a refugee resettlement agency standing for a world in which refugees find welcome, safety, and freedom. HIAS provides free legal services for asylum

and SIJS cases in the Maryland area. More info available here: www.hias.org)

- Department of Justice, Executive Office of Immigration Review's [Recognized Organizations and Accredited Representatives](#)
- American Immigration Lawyers Association's [Immigration Lawyer Search](#)

DO OFFICERS OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT COOPERATE WITH ICE AGENTS?

"It is longstanding County policy that County police do not enforce federal immigration law. Neither will they inquire about immigration status when individuals are stopped nor target individuals based on their ethnicity, race, or religious beliefs.

"The County's law enforcement leaders are also committed to our values, and they will continue working to build trust in our community. Police Chief Tom Manger, Corrections and Rehabilitation Director Rob Green, Sheriff Darren Popkin, and State's Attorney John McCarthy are sworn to protect the rights of all residents and to treat all individuals equally."

Read full [Joint Statement Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett and the Montgomery County Council County Leaders Reaffirm Community Values](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/ImmigrationJointStatementen13017.pdf).
(<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/ImmigrationJointStatementen13017.pdf>)

"Local police departments work hard to build and preserve trust with all of the communities they serve, including immigrant communities. Immigrants residing in our cities must be able to trust the police and all of city government." Read full [joint statement issued by U.S. Conference of Mayors CEO & Executive Director Tom Cochran and Major Cities Chiefs Association President and Montgomery County, MD Chief of Police J. Thomas Manger](#)

SHOULD I STOP USING PUBLIC SERVICES TO MINIMIZE MY RISK?

- "We want people to get the help they need. I want to assure the community that the Health and Human Services Department will continue to provide services to our community as we have done in the past. There will be no changes in our response to residents who need our services and are eligible for any services that we offer. We

do not want barriers to prevent our residents from feeling safe, getting food, and finding shelter." –Uma Ahluwalia, Director, Department of Health and Human Services.

- If you have any questions regarding the impact of the executive actions on public benefits and your legal status, you should consult a reputable organization listed in Montgomery County's [Legal Immigration Service Provider Directory](#).
- Residents looking for services can refer to the Gilchrist Center's "Quick Start Guide for Immigrants in Montgomery County, MD" featuring top resources immigrants and newcomers may need when getting started in Montgomery County. The guide is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Korean](#), and [French](#). Chinese, Vietnamese and Amharic versions are coming soon. Visit the Gilchrist Center's website for more information: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist>.

ARE THERE ANY RESOURCES TO HELP ME WHEN I AM REALLY STRESSED OUT?

If you need support or help coping during this time of heightened fear, reach out and get help:

- **EveryMind** (formerly Mental Health Association of Montgomery County): Available 24/7. Hotline (301) 738-CALL (2255); Textline (301) 738-2255; Chat online with a specialist at CrisisChat.org.
- **CASA de Maryland** has **Bi-Lingual Health Hotlines** and has many other resources.
 - Spanish: (301) 270-8432
 - English: (240) 270-1318
- **Catholic Charities** offers a wide range of services, including counseling, for the community. Call their referral specialist at (202) 772-4300.
- **Faith Community**- If you experience an incident of hate or violence, Montgomery County's faith leaders are available to help you 24/7. Call (240) 447-1715.

WHAT SHOULD I TELL MY KIDS ABOUT THEIR SCHOOL?

"Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is committed to ensuring that all students feel safe and welcome in our schools, **regardless of immigration status. MCPS will not take any action that may discourage participation or exclude students based on immigration status.** Our schools do not require students or their families to provide any information about their immigration status, and MCPS staff are not required to report

undocumented students to ICE.” Read more from [MCPS’ webpage on Immigration Information](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/parents/immigration-information.aspx) (<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/parents/immigration-information.aspx>)

Schools are “safe places,” meaning that ICE enforcement actions, such as arrests or searches, should not occur at sensitive locations such as schools and places of worship. There are a few limited exceptions, as outlined in this [ICE policy](#).

- **Parents/guardians of students in Montgomery County Public Schools should update emergency contact information** immediately using form. [MCPS Form 565-1, Student Emergency Information](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/detail.aspx?formID=353&formNumber=565-1&catID=2&subCatId=5) (available in other languages) (<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/detail.aspx?formID=353&formNumber=565-1&catID=2&subCatId=5>)
- **Safety concerns:** Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for students and staff. Safety and security of our schools is everyone's concern. Two confidential (no Caller ID) hotlines are available to report safety and/or security concerns.
 - **MCPS Safe Schools 24-hour Hotline:** (301) 517-5995
 - **Maryland Safe Schools Tip Hotline:** (877) 636-6332 (toll-free)
- **What should I do if my kid is being bullied at school?**
 - Encourage your child to talk to you about the incident(s).
 - Contact your child’s teacher and principal to report the incident(s).
 - Complete a "[Bullying, Harassment or Intimidation Reporting Form](#)," available in multiple languages. Reports can be completed by printing out a [hard copy \(Español\)](#) and submitting the completed form to the Principal of the school. If you don't have access to a printer, copies can be obtained at your child’s school.

HOW CAN I REPORT HATE CRIMES?

- Call **911 for emergencies** if you feel threatened or are a victim of a crime. The Montgomery County Police Department will not ask for any information about immigration status and are committed to serving all people with dignity and respect, regardless of status, gender, color, creed or religious background.
- Call [Montgomery County Police](#) at **301-279-8000** for non-emergency situations.

- Call [Montgomery County Office of Human Rights](#) at **240-777-8450**. This office investigates incidents of hate/violence and complaints of discrimination. Victims of hate/violence crimes can seek compensation for replacement of property through the County's Partnership Fund, administered by the Office of Human Rights.

WHAT CAN I DO IF I WANT TO HELP?

Residents can help by volunteering or making a donation to organizations engaged in this work.

Volunteer

Montgomery County is in need of Pro Bono attorneys! If you are looking to volunteer your legal expertise, please contact the [Maryland Pro Bono Resource Center](#) and/or nonprofit legal providers in the [Montgomery County Legal Immigration Service Providers Directory](#).

For other volunteer opportunities at immigrant-serving organizations, visit the [Montgomery County Volunteer Center](#) and search keywords by interest area such as “immigrants”, age group (youth, adults, seniors) or specific language (Spanish, Vietnamese, etc). Visit their website at <http://www.montgomeryserves.org>.

Donations

If you are interested in making a financial contribution to support local nonprofits serving the immigrant population, please consider making your contribution to the **Shared Values Fund** established by The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region and its partners. The Fund was established in February 2017 to help nonprofits in our region increase their capacity to respond rapidly to fulfill their missions, now and in the future. Here is the link to make a donation to the fund: <https://cfncr.wufoo.com/forms/shared-values-fund/>. Please indicate that you would like your donation allocated to Montgomery County. You may also indicate your issue priorities for the use of your donation (e.g., legal services for immigrants).

Support for Refugees

- Talk to your neighbors about why you support immigrants and refugees. Here is one resource: <https://www.welcomingamerica.org/content/neighbors-together>
- Welcoming Our New Neighbors – Montgomery County Faith Community Advisory Council <http://montgomerycountyinterfaithmd.org/programs/welcoming-our-new-neighbors/>
or contact Patty Larson at patricia.larson@montgomerycountymd.gov
- Help permanent residents prepare for citizenship tests.
 - <http://www.bccc.edu/Page/382>
 - Citizenship Preparation Program at Montgomery College: contact Izis Weills, Program Aide 240-567-8839, izis.weills@montgomerycollege.edu, <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce/aelg/citizenship.html>
 - Organize a food drive, volunteer with food pantry – for example, St. Luke's or Manna
 - Help the refugee resettlement agencies. Opportunities include employment and cultural mentoring, providing transportation, ESL tutoring, collecting and donating goods like formal wear for job interviews.
 - <https://www.rescue.org/announcement/how-volunteer-silver-spring>
 - <http://www.ecdcus.org/Opportunities/Volunteer-opportunities.asp>
 - http://lssnca.org/get_involved/volunteer.html