

*Adapted with permission from the Community Guide created by the  
Mayor's Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs, City of Baltimore, MD.*

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*This document will continue to be updated as new information becomes available.*

The Montgomery County government continues to treat all residents with respect. The Gilchrist Center is committed to doing everything we can do to ensure that all residents of Montgomery County feel safe and valued.

### KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

- All existing immigration benefits remain in existence.
- If and when things change, we will provide updated information.
- [“Know Your Rights” Fact Sheet](#) <sup>1</sup> about what to do when confronted by law enforcements, raids, protests, and more, from the National Immigration Law Center.
- [“Know Your Rights! Learn How to Protect You and Your Family During Immigration Raids,”](#) <sup>2</sup> ([Espanol](#)), <sup>3</sup> from CASA de Maryland.
- [“How to Prepare for Changes in the Presidential Election,”](#) <sup>4</sup> ([Espanol](#)), <sup>5</sup> from CLINIC Legal.

### REPORT HATE CRIMES

- Call **911 for emergencies** if you feel threatened or are a victim of 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](#) <sup>6</sup> at **301-279-8000** for non-emergency situations.
- Call [Montgomery County Office of Human Rights](#) <sup>7</sup> 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.

### OBTAIN COMPETENT IMMIGRATION ADVICE

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

- **Visit these websites to find reputable legal providers:**

- Montgomery County's [Legal Services Directory](#)<sup>8</sup> or see the Appendix.
  - Department of Justice, Executive Office of Immigration Review's [Recognized Organizations and Accredited Representatives](#)<sup>9</sup> List.
  - American Immigration Lawyers Association's [Immigration Lawyer Search](#)<sup>10</sup>.
- **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](#)"<sup>11</sup> ([Espanol](#))<sup>12</sup> 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. DACA is still in effect.
    - "[Post-Election Talking Points and Resources](#)"<sup>13</sup> ([Espanol](#))<sup>14</sup> by the Immigrant Legal Resource Center discusses the pros and cons of applying for or renewing DACA now.
  - **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](#)<sup>15</sup>, [Montgomery College](#),<sup>16</sup> [CASA de Maryland](#)<sup>17</sup> 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.
  - **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](#)<sup>18</sup>: (240) 777-3636
    - [Maryland Attorney General, Consumer Protection](#)<sup>19</sup>: English: (410) 528-8662, Español: (410) 230-1712
    - [Federal Trade Commission](#)<sup>20</sup>: (877) 382-4357
    - [Executive Office for Immigration Review](#)<sup>21</sup>: (703) 305-0470
  - **Consideration for LGBTQ immigrants:** [FAQ's](#)<sup>22</sup> from Immigration Equality about the new federal administration and how it may impact immigrants, including LGBTQ people.

## MAKE A PLAN

If you or a family member are detained or deported, it is important that other family members, especially children, know what to do. Make sure you know which adult will oversee the children. Keep all important paperwork regarding children and other family members in one place, ready for the remaining adult to handle. Make a copy of these documents and keep them in a safe, secure place.

- To create a safety plan, see CASA de Maryland’s “[Know Your Rights! Learn How to Protect You and Your Family During Immigration Raids.](#)”<sup>23</sup>
- For service providers interested in helping families create a family safety plan, please see “[Family Safety Planning](#)”<sup>24</sup> by the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC). For individuals wanting to create a family safety plan, page 20 of CLINIC’s manual is a good starting point.

## TALK TO YOUR KIDS AND FAMILY ABOUT SAFETY AT SCHOOL

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](#).<sup>25</sup>

- **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](#),”<sup>26</sup> available in multiple languages. Reports can be completed by printing out a [hard copy](#)<sup>27</sup> ([Español](#))<sup>28</sup> 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.

## TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

If you need support, 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.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nilc.org/get-involved/community-education-resources/know-your-rights>

<sup>2</sup> [http://wearecasa.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/KYR-booklet\\_English.pdf](http://wearecasa.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/KYR-booklet_English.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.adminrelief.org/resources/item.543576-Know\\_Your\\_Rights\\_Spanish](https://www.adminrelief.org/resources/item.543576-Know_Your_Rights_Spanish)

<sup>4</sup> <https://cliniclegal.org/sites/default/files/How-to-Prepare-for-Changes-in-the-Presidential-Administration.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://cliniclegal.org/sites/default/files/resources/presidential-transition/How-to-Prepare-for-Changes-in-the-Presidential-Administration-Spanish.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/index.html>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/humanrights>

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/partnerships/Resources/Files/MC\\_Legal\\_Providers\\_Directory.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/partnerships/Resources/Files/MC_Legal_Providers_Directory.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/recognition-accreditation-roster-reports>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.ailalawyer.org/>

<sup>11</sup> [http://maldef.org/assets/pdf/MALDEF\\_Immigrants\\_Rights\\_Under\\_a\\_Trump\\_Presidency.pdf](http://maldef.org/assets/pdf/MALDEF_Immigrants_Rights_Under_a_Trump_Presidency.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> [http://www.maldef.org/assets/pdf/Derechos\\_De\\_Inmigrantes\\_Bajo\\_La\\_Presidencia\\_De\\_Trump.pdf](http://www.maldef.org/assets/pdf/Derechos_De_Inmigrantes_Bajo_La_Presidencia_De_Trump.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/post-election\\_talking\\_points.pdf](https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/post-election_talking_points.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> [https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/ilrc\\_spanish\\_post-election\\_talking\\_points.pdf](https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/ilrc_spanish_post-election_talking_points.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.bccc.edu/citizenship>

<sup>16</sup> <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce/aelg/citizenship.html>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.citizenshipmd.org/>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ocp/>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/CPD/complaint.aspx>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/submit-complaint>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.immigrationequality.org/faqs/>

<sup>23</sup> [http://wearecasa.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/KYR-booklet\\_English.pdf](http://wearecasa.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/KYR-booklet_English.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> [https://cliniclegal.org/sites/default/files/family\\_safety\\_planning.pdf](https://cliniclegal.org/sites/default/files/family_safety_planning.pdf)

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/detail.aspx?formID=40&formNumber=230-35&catID=1&subCatID=44>

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/230-35.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/pdf/230-35.pdf>

**Headquarters**  
Mid-County Regional Center  
2424 Reedie Drive, Suite 220  
Wheaton, MD 20902  
240.777.4940

**Gaithersburg Library**  
18330 Montgomery Village Avenue  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Gaithersburg, MD 20879  
240.777.4960

**Upcounty Regional Center**  
12900 Middlebrook Road  
Germantown, MD 20874  
240.777.6950

**East County Regional Center**  
3300 Briggs Chaney Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20904  
240.777.8406