



Montgomery County Supports Immigrants

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.

“Our law enforcement and other support agencies will continue to follow local laws, rules and regulations. As a matter of policy, we do not inquire about anyone's immigration status to support immigration enforcement, nor do we conduct immigration raids or investigations.”—County Executive Marc Elrich

“We are fortunate in Montgomery County to have many organizations to assist our residents with legal advice. We encourage people to rely on those who can provide assistance. Everyone should know their rights if they are approached by ICE” —County Council President Sidney Katz

Immigration Information & Resources for Providers

Frequently Asked Questions (updated 3.5.20)

Montgomery County Office of Community Partnerships www.montgomerycountymd.gov/partnerships
Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist

This guide is designed to point you in the right direction and to suggest resources. It is not meant to be 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 the most up-to-date information.

Frequently Asked Questions In This Document

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I. IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

Phone Numbers to keep handy:

- [CASA Hotline for Immigration Raids](#): 240-650-1012 or 1-855-678-2272
 - Call in case of an ICE raid or emergency or if you know of a raid in the area.
- [Sanctuary DMV's](#) ICE Emergency Hotline: (202) 335-1183
 - Call in case of an ICE raid or emergency, or if you want a trained group of volunteers to go with you to an ICE check-in or immigration court.
- [CAIR Coalition](#) assists those in ICE Detention: From an ICE detention center, call 202-331-3329 or dial #1686. To seek help for a loved one, leave a message with the Alien Registration Number at: 202-330-3320 ext. 7027
- [Executive Office for Immigration Review's](#) (EOIR) Automated Case Information Hotline (in English and Spanish): 1-800-898-7180
 - If you have a case in immigration court, call the EOIR Hotline to get information about the status of your case, including whether you have an upcoming hearing or have received a deportation order (you will need your Alien Registration Number)

How to Locate Someone in Immigration Detention:

- Use ICE's [Online Detainee Locator System](#) in order to locate someone who has been detained by immigration authorities. ICE's website has [brochures](#) in different languages on how to use the System.
- You can also try [calling the local ICE office](#) for information on detainees housed in an ICE facility.
- Those at risk of being detained can fill out an [ICE form](#), which allows ICE to release information about the detainee to third parties. Individuals can fill out the form and give it to their family and friends ahead of time, so that they can receive information from ICE about a detainee's whereabouts and status.
- Your members of Congress may be able to assist you with locating someone in detention. To find out which members of Congress represent you, click [here](#) to identify your Senators, and click [here](#) to identify your House Representative. Fill out the [form](#) mentioned above and include the names of your members of Congress so they can receive information about you from ICE.

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](#): 1-877-382-4357
- [Executive Office for Immigration Review](#): 1-877-388-3840, or send an email to EOIR.Fraud.Program@usdoj.gov

Visit these websites to find reputable legal providers:

- The Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center's list of [reputable legal service providers](#).
- Department of Justice, Executive Office of Immigration Review's [Recognized Organizations and Accredited Representatives](#) List.
- American Immigration Lawyers Association's [Immigration Lawyer Search](#).
- [National Immigration Legal Services Directory](#). You can search by zip code or detention facility. By Immigration Advocates Network and Pro Bono Net.

Other Useful Resources:

- The Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center's website includes a [Know Your Rights page](#) with a list of helpful resources on how to prepare for ICE raids and where to find legal assistance. Some key resources include:
 - [Resources to Prepare for Immigration Raids](#), a comprehensive compilation of resources by local organizations.
 - [Know Your Rights Handouts: If ICE Visits a Home, Employer or a Public Space](#), in English, Spanish, Chinese, Portuguese, Arabic, Haitian Creole, and Punjabi. By the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA).
 - [Know Your Rights Postcards](#) in multiple languages (including Arabic, Spanish, Farsi, and Somali). These small postcards can be printed and carried with you. By the [National Immigration Law Center](#).
 - CASA's Know Your Rights Booklets, in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Deportation Order: If you have a deportation order, or if you were previously deported and came back to the US without permission, ICE can deport you quickly and without the protections offered to people who do not have deportation orders. For example, if you have a deportation order against you, you do not usually have the right to fight your case in immigration court, unless you file a Motion to Reopen your case and it is granted. If you have an outstanding deportation order, you should speak with an immigration attorney to see if you qualify for a Motion to Reopen.

If you are not sure whether you have a deportation order (eg, if you were supposed to go to immigration court but did not go), you can call the Immigration Court Hotline at 1-800-898-7180 to get information about your case. You will need to know your "Alien Number," which will begin with an "A" and be followed by either 8 or 9 digits (ex. 123-456-789 or "012-345-678"). The number will be on any documents you have ever received from immigration (like a letter, your work permit, your green card, etc.).

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

The following information is adapted from the Catholic Legal Immigration Network's (CLINIC) [Know Your Rights Guide](#), available in multiple languages on their website.

Download and carry CLINIC's [Know Your Rights Card](#) In multiple languages.

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 ICE agents, **tell them that you are exercising your right to remain silent** and give them your **Know Your Rights Card** (see above examples). **DO NOT give immigration officials fake documents or false information, as this can be used against you and hurt your case.**

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 signed by a judge**. Look at the top and at the signature line to see if it was issued by a court and signed by a judge. An administrative warrant of removal signed by an ICE or DHS employee is not enough and does not authorize them to enter your home. If ICE agents come to your home, you should **demand verification of the warrant before opening the door**.

Go to [CLINIC's website](#) for additional information.

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

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

From the Immigration Legal Resource Center's [Family Preparedness Plan](#): Anyone who is not a citizen of the United States must develop a security plan in the event of being arrested by ICE.

- 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 extra copies of all documents.
- 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 you have your alien registration number written down, if you have one. See Section I., "How to Locate Someone in Immigration Detention," for more information.
- You can call the Executive Office for Immigration Review's (EOIR) Automated Case Information Hotline number at 1-800-898-7180 (toll-free) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to get information in English and Spanish on your case's status.

Power of Attorney Document: A Power of Attorney authorizes another individual to manage your affairs if you are unable to do so yourself. A Power of Attorney can be general (which gives a person the authority to handle *all* business and personal matters,) or limited (only certain powers are granted). Please consult an attorney if you would like to create a Power of Attorney.

Standby Guardianship: Appointing a standby guardian who can care for your children if you are picked up by ICE reduces the risk of your children becoming wards of the state if you cannot care for them. You can fill out a [form](#) to designate a standby guardian, and it would take effect only if you are picked up by ICE or suffer another adverse immigration action. The standby guardianship would remain in place for up to 180 days. If you need the standby guardianship to last more than 180 days, you must file a form with the court. Standby guardianship can be revoked at any time by the parent(s). The form to designate a standby guardian is available in English, as well as Spanish, French, Russian, Chinese, Korean, Amharic, and Portuguese. To access the form in different languages, click [here](#), and scroll down to the bottom of the Guardianship Forms section. For help in filling out the Standby Guardianship forms, call [The Standby Guardianship Project](#) at: 240-395-4443.

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

IV. WHAT OTHER INFORMATION SHOULD I KEEP HANDY?

For questions regarding county services, residents can dial 311. You have the right to ask for an interpreter that speaks your language.

To report raids or get assistance, contact CASA's hotline at: (240) 650-1012 or (855) 678-2272, or Sanctuary DMV's hotline at (202) 335-1183.

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. Below is a list of some local embassies.

<p><u>African Union Mission</u> 1640 Wisconsin Ave., NW Washington, DC 20007 Phone: (202) 342-1100 https://auwashingtondc.org/index.php/contact</p>	<p><u>Nicaragua</u> 1627 New Hampshire Ave, NW Washington, DC 20009 Phone: (202) 939-6570 Email: ozamora@cancilleria.gob.ni http://consuladodenicaragua.com</p>
<p><u>China</u> 3505 International Place, NW Washington, DC 20008 Phone: (202) 495-2266 or (202) 966-0697 Email: chinaembpress_us@mfa.gov.cn http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/</p>	<p><u>Pakistan</u> Consular Office, Embassy of Pakistan 3517 International Court NW Washington, DC 20008 Phone: (202)243-6500 Email: consularsection@embassyofpakistanusa.org http://embassyofpakistanusa.org/contact-us</p>
<p><u>El Salvador</u> 926 Philadelphia Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20910 Phone: (240) 670-7505 or (240) 670-7484 Email: consuladoelsalvadorc@gmail.com http://www.elsalvador.org/</p>	<p><u>Nepal</u> 2730 34th Place NW Washington, DC 20007 Phone: (202) 667 4550 Email: eonwashington@mofa.gov.np https://us.nepalembassy.gov.np/contact/</p>
<p><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 http://www.guatemalaembassyusa.org/l-con-nosotros/</p>	<p><u>Somalia</u> 1705 Desales St, NW Washington, DC 20036 Phone: (202)-296-0570, (202)-833-1523 Email: info@somaliembassydc.net http://www.somaliembassydc.net/</p>
<p><i>(continued on next page)</i></p>	

<p><u>Honduras</u> 1990 M Street, NW Washington, DC 20036 Phone: (202) 450-3146 or (202) 525-4001 Email: consulado.washington@hondurasemb.org http://www.hondurasemb.org/consulados.html</p>	<p><u>South Sudan</u> 1015 31st St, NW Ste 300 Washington, DC 20007 Phone: (202) 600 2238 Email: consularofficedc@gmail.com http://www.southsudanembassyusa.org/</p>
<p><u>India</u> Consular Wing 2536 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20008 Phone: (202) 939-7000 Emergency Consular Number: (202) 258-8819 https://www.indianembassyusa.gov.in/</p>	<p><u>Sudan</u> 2210 Massachusetts Ave Washington, DC 20008 (202) 338-8565 Email: info@sudanembassy.org http://www.sudanembassy.org/</p>
<p><u>Indonesia</u> 2020 Massachusetts Ave NW Washington, DC 20036 Phone: (202) 775-5200 https://www.embassyofindonesia.org/</p>	<p><u>Vietnam</u> 1233 20th St NW, Suite 400 Washington, DC 20036 Tel: (202) 861-0737 Consular emergency: (202) 716-8666 Email: vnconsular@vietnamembassy.us http://vietnamembassy-usa.org/consular</p>
<p><u>Korea</u> 2320 Massachusetts Ave, NW Washington, D.C. 20008 Phone: (202) 939-5653 http://south-korea.embassy-online.net/South-Korea-Embassy-Washington-DC.php</p>	<p><u>Yemen</u> 2600 Virginia Ave, NW Washington, DC 20037 (202) 965-4760 Email: information@yemenembassy.org https://www.yemenembassy.org/contact-us/</p>
<p><u>Mexico</u> 1250 23rd St NW, Suite 002 Washington, DC 20037 Phone: (202) 736-1000 Email: consulmexwas@sre.gob.mx https://consulmex.sre.gob.mx/washington/index.php</p>	

V. 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:

- The Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center's list of [reputable legal service providers](#).
- Department of Justice, Executive Office of Immigration Review's [Recognized Organizations and Accredited Representatives](#)
- American Immigration Lawyers Association's [Immigration Lawyer Search](#)
- [National Immigration Legal Services Directory](#). You can search by zip code or detention facility. By Immigration Advocates Network and Pro Bono Net.

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

“Our law enforcement and other support agencies will continue to follow local laws, rules and regulations. As a matter of policy, we do not inquire about anyone's immigration status to support immigration enforcement, nor do we conduct immigration raids or investigations.”—County Executive Marc Elrich

“We are fortunate in Montgomery County to have many organizations to assist our residents with legal advice. We encourage people to rely on those who can provide assistance. Everyone should know their rights if they are approached by ICE” —County Council President Sidney Katz

“In reference to President Trump's recent tweets and media reports, Montgomery County Police will not participate with ICE regarding any immigration enforcement efforts next week or at any time. It is against our long-standing policy as this is a national issue and not a local issue. We have not received any requests from the federal government or ICE for their planned enforcement and we do not anticipate being informed.”—Montgomery County Police Department, Statement released via Tweet, June 22, 2019. Read the [Tweet Here](#).

For more information on Montgomery County's position on local law enforcement's cooperation with ICE, visit its [website](#).

VII. SHOULD I STOP USING PUBLIC SERVICES (PUBLIC CHARGE) TO MINIMIZE MY RISK?

“We at Health and Human Services remain focused on promoting the wellbeing and health of all Montgomery County residents. As we have always done, we will continue to serve all residents who are eligible for our services while protecting their rights to privacy and human dignity. In cooperation with our many partners and community members, we remain committed to ensuring that those who need our help will have it.” - Raymond L. Crowel, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

The “Public Charge Rule” deals with the impact of an immigrant’s use of public benefits on his or her immigration status. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) implemented the Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds rule on February 24, 2020. Under this rule, USCIS will look at factors such as an applicant’s age, health, income, education, skills and other factors in determining whether or not the applicant will likely become a public charge and therefore inadmissible to the United States.

Public Charge does not affect all immigrants and not all public programs are considered in the public charge test:

- The Public Charge Rule does not affect all immigrants.
 - Refugees, asylees, survivors of trafficking, domestic violence and other serious crimes and other “humanitarian” immigrants are not affected.
 - Lawful permanent residents/green card holders are not affected unless they leave the US for over 180 days and seek to re-enter the country.
- Many public programs are not considered in the Public Charge test.
 - Food and nutrition programs like WIC, Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), school lunches, food banks and shelters are not included in the test. Some child care assistance, state and locally funded health care are also not included in the test.
 - Please consult with an attorney before you disenroll from your benefits. Please visit the Immigration Legal Service Providers Chart [here](#).
- Immigration officials must look at the totality of circumstances (all of your circumstances) to determine whether you are likely to become a public charge.
 - Positive factors, like having a job or health insurance, can be weighed against negative factors, like having used certain benefits or having a health condition.
- Be honest when applying for health care coverage, nutrition, economic support, or other public benefits.
 - Application for public programs should not ask for immigration status information.
 - You should provide only the information necessary and should never give false information when completing public benefit applications or dealing with any government agencies.

You can visit the [Protecting Immigrant Families’](#) website to learn more about your rights.

You can visit the [Immigrant Legal Resource Center's](#) website to learn more about the Public Charge changes. You can also read the ILRC's Public Charge FAQ handouts in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

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 the Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center's list of [reputable legal service providers](#).

Residents looking for services can refer to the Gilchrist Immigrant Resource 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](#), [French](#), [Chinese](#), [Vietnamese](#) and [Amharic](#). Visit the Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center's website for more information: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist>.

VIII. 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](#) has **Bilingual Health Hotlines** and has many other resources.
 - English: 1-866-765-2272
 - Spanish: (301) 270-8432
- [Catholic Charities](#) offers a wide range of services, including counseling, for the community. Call their referral specialist at (202) 772-4300.
- [Proyecto Salud](#) offers behavioral health services and can diagnose and treat patients with anxiety disorders and depression.
 - Wheaton: (301) 962-6173
 - Olney: (301) 260-1073
- [Family Services, Inc.](#) provides comprehensive, culturally competent services for those living with serious mental illness, substance abuse and co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse disorders. Call 301-840-2000.
- [Aspire Counseling](#) offers individual, family and group therapy in an age-appropriate and culturally sensitive manner to meet the needs of our diverse community. Call 301-978-9750.
- [Montgomery County Crisis Center](#) For an immediate response to mental health emergencies and situational crises, call the Crisis Center at: 240-777-4000. The Mobile Crisis Team is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The team will provide a crisis evaluation, facilitate hospital evaluations when needed, stabilize the crisis, and make recommendations regarding treatment and resources.

IX. 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](#).

Schools and places of worship are currently considered “sensitive locations,” meaning that they are places where ICE enforcement actions (such as arrests or searches) generally should not occur. However, there are a few exceptions to this federal policy, and the policy could change in the future. To learn more about ICE’s “sensitive location” [policy](#) and its exceptions, please visit [ICE’s FAQ](#) page.

Parents/guardians of students in Montgomery County Public Schools should update emergency contact information immediately using form. [MCPS Form 565-1, Student Emergency Information](#) (available in other languages)

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 for Montgomery County:** 1-833-632-7233 (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.

X. 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, sexual orientation, 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.

XI. HOW CAN I HELP?

Volunteer

- Montgomery County is in need of Pro Bono attorneys! If you are looking to volunteer your legal expertise, please contact the nonprofit legal providers in the [Montgomery County Legal Immigration Service Providers Directory](#), and/or the [Maryland Pro Bono Resource Center](#).
- 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>.
- Help permanent residents prepare for citizenship tests.
 - [Charles W. Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center](#) runs citizenship preparation classes throughout Montgomery County.
 - Citizenship Preparation Program at Montgomery College: contact Maysoon Hussein-Fawzi, 240-567-8839, citizenshipprogram@montgomerycollege.edu <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/workforce-development-continuing-education/english-language-skills/citizenship/index.html>

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 **Resilience 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://thecommunityfoundation.org/resiliencefund/>. 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).
 - You can also make a donation directly to a nonprofit legal service provider. A list of providers can be found in the [Montgomery County Legal Immigration Service Providers Directory](#).

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/>
- Organize a food drive, volunteer with a 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>
 - <https://www.ecdcus.org/get-involved/volunteering/>

XII. WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MY IMMIGRATION STATUS?

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](#), and [CASA](#), provide classes to prepare to become a U.S. citizen for no or low fee. Visit the Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center’s [citizenship page](#) for additional information on where to receive free legal assistance in applying for citizenship, as well as scholarships available to help pay for the application fees. If you have ever had an encounter with the police, do not apply for citizenship unless you have consulted with a licensed attorney.

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. See the “Where Do I Go For Trusted and Reliable Legal Advice” section above for resources on how to find a legal service provider.

Consideration for LGBTQ immigrants: [FAQ's](#) from Immigration Equality about the new federal administration and how it may impact immigrants, including LGBTQ people.

Do you have additional questions or need more resources? **The Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center** has 4 locations throughout the County and we are here to help you in any language!

Main Number: (240) 777-4940, E-mail: GilchristCenter@montgomerycountymd.gov

Locations and Hours of Operation (on next page)

<p>Headquarters: Mid-County Regional Services Center 11002 Veirs Mill Rd., Suite 506 (Westfield South Building), Wheaton, MD 20902 (240) 777-4940 <u>Hours of operation:</u> Monday through Thursday: 9 am to 5 pm Map & Directions <u>Parking:</u> Parking is available in front and back of the building.</p>	<p>Gaithersburg Library Site 18330 Montgomery Village Avenue, 2nd Floor Gaithersburg, MD 20879 (240) 777-4960 <u>Hours of operation:</u> Tuesday: 5 pm to 9 pm Wednesday: 10 am to 3 pm Friday: 10 am to 3 pm Saturday: 10 am to 3 pm Map & Directions <u>Parking:</u> Parking is available in the Gaithersburg Library parking lot.</p>
<p>East County Site 3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904 (240) 777-8406 <u>Hours of operation:</u> Tuesday: 1 to 9 pm Thursday: 9 am to 5 pm Saturday: 9 am to 1 pm Map & Directions <u>Parking:</u> Ample parking is available in the adjacent parking lot.</p>	<p>Upcounty Site 12900 Middlebrook Road, Germantown, MD 20874 (240) 777-6950 <u>Hours of operation:</u> Tuesday and Thursday: 5 pm to 9 pm Map & Directions <u>Parking:</u> Ample parking is available in the adjacent parking lot.</p>

XIII. WHAT IS THE TRAVEL BAN?

The Travel Ban, which was issued on January 31, 2020, amended Presidential Proclamation 9645 which was originally issued on September 24, 2017. According to CAIR California: The revised Travel Ban “is already in full effect for individuals from Libya, Iran, Somalia, Yemen, Syria, North Korea, and Venezuela. The expanded Ban affecting individuals from Sudan, Nigeria, Tanzania, Myanmar, Eritrea, and Kyrgyzstan [went] into effect February 21, 2020.”

Who Is Impacted?

- Nationals of Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela, Yemen, Nigeria, Myanmar (Burma), Eritrea, and Kyrgyzstan.
 - Nationals of Sudan and Tanzania are impacted in that they cannot participate in the U.S. Diversity Visa lottery program.

Speak only with a reputable attorney or accredited representative at a recognized organization for legal advice.

The Travel Ban applies to individuals who:

- Are outside of the U.S. on the effective date
- Did not have a valid visa on that dateH not obtained a waiver (discussed below). Do not qualify for a visa or other travel document by the terms of the Proclamation
-

The Travel Ban Does NOT Apply To:

- U.S. Lawful permanent residents (green card holders);
- People admitted or paroled into the U.S. on or after the effective date of the new Travel Ban ;
- People with a document other than a visa that allows them to travel to the U.S., if the document is dated on or after the effective date of the new Travel Ban;
- Dual-nationals traveling on a passport from a non-designated country;
- People who have been granted asylum by the U.S.;
- Refugees already admitted to the U.S.;
- Or individuals granted withholding of removal, advance parole, or protection under the Convention against Torture.

Waiver

- A waiver seeking an exception to the Travel Ban might be possible, if the banned individual can show that:
 - Denying entry would cause the visa applicant undue hardship;
 - Entry to the U.S. would not pose a threat to the national security or public safety of the U.S.; and
 - Entry would be in the national interest of the U.S.
- A consular officer or Customs and Border Protection official has the authority to grant a waiver on a case-by-case basis.
- Unfortunately, the waiver process has been unclear and unevenly applied.

For more information, visit:

- [“U.S. SUPREME COURT RULING ON MUSLIM BAN 3.0: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW”](#) by CAIR California
- [“What You Should Know About the Latest Muslim Ban”](#) by CAIR California
- [“The Muslim Ban: What Just Happened?”](#) by ACLU
- [“Trump’s Three Year Campaign to Separate Families: The Muslim Ban”](#) by ACLU