
Immigration Violations

428.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines to members of the Union City Police Department relating to immigration and interacting with federal immigration officials.

428.1.1 DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to this policy (Government Code § 7284.4):

Criminal immigration violation - Any federal criminal immigration violation that penalizes a person's presence in, entry, or reentry to, or employment in, the United States. This does not include any offense where a judicial warrant already has been issued.

Immigration enforcement - Any and all efforts to investigate, enforce, or assist in the investigation or enforcement of any federal civil immigration law, including any and all efforts to investigate, enforce, or assist in the investigation or enforcement of any federal criminal immigration law that penalizes a person's presence in, entry or reentry to, or employment in the United States.

Judicial warrant - An arrest warrant for a violation of federal criminal immigration law and issued by a federal judge or a federal magistrate judge.

428.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Union City Police Department that all members make personal and professional commitments to equal enforcement of the law and equal service to the public. Confidence in this commitment will increase the effectiveness of this department in protecting and serving the entire community and recognizing the dignity of all persons, regardless of their national origin or immigration status.

428.3 BASIS FOR CONTACT

Persons wishing to report immigration violations should be referred to the local office of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The Employer Sanction Unit of ICE has primary jurisdiction for enforcement of Title 8, United States Code.

Unless immigration status is relevant to another criminal offense or investigation (e.g., harboring, smuggling, terrorism), the fact that an individual is suspected of being an undocumented alien shall not be the sole basis for contact, detention, or arrest. Any detention by a member of this department should be based upon the reasonable belief that an individual is involved in criminal activity.

When enforcement efforts are increased in a particular area, equal consideration should be given to all suspected violations and not just those affecting a particular race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status or other group. The disposition of each contact (e.g., warning, citation, arrest), while discretionary in each case, should not be affected by such factors as race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion or socioeconomic status.

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428.3.1 CIVIL VS. CRIMINAL FEDERAL OFFENSES

An individual who enters into the United States illegally has committed a misdemeanor (8 USC § 1325(a)). Conversely, an alien who initially entered the United States legally, but has remained beyond a legally authorized period of time, has committed a federal civil offense.

Reasonable suspicion that a criminal immigration violation has occurred shall not be a generalization based on race, color, national origin or any other arbitrary observation that would cast suspicion on or stigmatize any person. Instead, the totality of circumstances shall be used to determine reasonable suspicion, and shall include factors weighing for and against reasonable suspicion, in accordance with the United States and California Constitutions.

Factors that may be considered in determining reasonable suspicion that a criminal immigration violation has occurred may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) An admission that the person entered the United States illegally.
- (b) Reason to suspect that the person possesses immigration documentation that is forged, altered or otherwise indicative that the person is not legally present in the United States.
- (c) Other factors based upon training and experience.

428.3.1 SWEEPS

The Union City Police Department does not independently conduct sweeps or other organized efforts for the purpose of detaining suspected undocumented aliens. Members of this department should not participate in such federal immigration operations as part of any detention team unless it is in direct response to a request for emergency assistance for compromised officer safety.

428.3.3 ICE REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

It is the primary duty of the Union City Police Department to provide local public safety and policing services to the Union City community. Many immigration violations are a matter of federal civil law, and the law does not grant state and local peace officers the authority to detain or take any other enforcement action solely on the basis of a civil violation of federal law (Arizona v. United States, 132 S.Ct. 2492, 2505 (2012)).

If a routine, planning related, or otherwise non-emergency request is made by the Immigration ICE or any other federal agency conducting an immigration-related operation, the Union City Police Department will provide available support services to ensure public safety, but not directly assist in immigration enforcement activities.

428.4 VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

To encourage crime reporting and cooperation in the investigation of criminal activity, all individuals, regardless of their immigration status, must feel secure that contacting or being addressed by members of law enforcement will not automatically lead to immigration inquiry and/or deportation. While it may be necessary to determine the identity of a victim or witness, members shall treat all individuals equally and without regard to race, ethnicity, or national origin in any way that would violate the United States or California constitutions.

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428.5 BOOKING

If the officer is unable to reasonably establish an arrestee's identity, the individual may be booked into jail for the suspected criminal violation and held for bail.

When a person is detained exclusively pursuant to the authority of Vehicle Code Section 40302(a) for any infraction or misdemeanor pertaining to the operation of a motor vehicle, the detaining officer shall amply notify officers processing the detention that the detention shall not exceed two hours for the purpose of establishing his or her true identity. At the expiration of two hours, the detainee shall be released with his or her signature as a promise to appear in court for the Vehicle Code infraction or misdemeanor involved.

428.6 CONSIDERATIONS PRIOR TO IMMIGRATION REPORTING

The Union City Police Department is concerned for the safety of the community and the detection of criminal behavior is of primary importance to the department. A decision to arrest shall be based upon factors which establish probable cause and not on arbitrary circumstances. Race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and socioeconomic status alone are of no bearing on the decision to arrest.

All individuals, regardless of their immigration status, must feel secure that contacting law enforcement will not make them vulnerable to deportation. Members of the Union City Police Department should not attempt to determine the immigration status of crime victims and witnesses or take enforcement action against them except under circumstances identified in section 428.8. Generally, if an officer suspects that a victim or witness is an undocumented alien, the officer need not report the person to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) unless circumstances indicate such reporting is reasonably necessary; an example would be when a witness has previously been deported and was convicted of a violent felony.

Nothing in this policy is intended to restrict officers from exchanging legitimate law enforcement information with any other federal, state or local government entity (8 USC § 1373; 8 USC § 1644).

428.7 U VISA AND T VISA NONIMMIGRANT STATUS

Under certain circumstances, federal law allows temporary immigration benefits, known as a U visa, to victims and witnesses of certain qualifying crimes (8 USC § 1101(a)(15)(U)).

Similar immigration protection, known as a T visa, is available for certain qualifying victims of human trafficking (8 USC § 1101(a)(15)(T)).

Any request for assistance in applying for U visa or T visa status should be forwarded in a timely manner to the Investigations Unit supervisor assigned to oversee the handling of any related case. The Investigations Unit supervisor should:

- (a) Consult with the assigned investigator to determine the current status of any related case and whether further documentation is warranted.

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- (b) Contact the appropriate prosecutor assigned to the case, if applicable, to ensure the certification or declaration has not already been completed and whether a certification or declaration is warranted.
- (c) Address the request and complete the certification or declaration, if appropriate, in a timely manner.
 - 1. The instructions for completing certification and declaration forms can be found on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) website.
 - 2. Form I-918 Supplement B certification shall be completed if the victim qualifies under Penal Code § 679.10 (multiple serious offenses). Form I-914 Supplement B certification shall be completed if the victim qualifies under Penal Code § 236.5 or Penal Code § 679.11 (human trafficking).
- (d) Ensure that any decision to complete, or not complete, a certification or declaration form is documented in the case file and forwarded to the appropriate prosecutor. Include a copy of any completed form in the case file.
- (e) Inform the victim liaison of any requests and their status.

428.7.1 TIME FRAMES FOR COMPLETION

Officers and their supervisors who are assigned to investigate a case of human trafficking as defined by Penal Code § 236.1 shall complete the above process and the documents needed for indicating the individual is a victim for the T visa application within 15 business days of the first encounter with the victim, regardless of whether it is requested by the victim (Penal Code § 236.5).

Officers and their supervisors shall complete the above process and the documents needed certifying victim cooperation for a U visa or T visa application pursuant to Penal Code § 679.10 and Penal Code § 679.11 within 30 days of a request from the victim, victim's family, or authorized representative (as defined in Penal Code § 679.10 and Penal Code § 679.11) related to one of their assigned cases. If the victim is in removal proceedings, the certification shall be processed within seven days of the first business day following the day the request was received.

428.7.2 POLICE REPORTS

Upon request, an officer or supervisor should provide a victim or authorized representative with a copy of the report filed by the victim within seven days of the request (Penal Code § 679.10).

428.8 DETENTIONS AND ARRESTS

An officer shall not detain any individual, for any length of time, for a civil violation of federal immigration laws or a related civil warrant (Government Code § 7284.6).

An officer who has a reasonable suspicion that an individual already lawfully contacted or detained has committed a criminal violation of 8 USC § 1326(a) (unlawful reentry) that may be subject to an enhancement due to a previous conviction of an aggravated felony under 8 USC § 1326(b) (2), may detain the person for a reasonable period of time to contact federal immigration officials to verify whether the United States Attorney General has granted the individual permission for reentry and whether the violation is subject to enhancement (Government Code § 7284.6). No

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individual who is otherwise ready to be released should continue to be detained only because questions about the individual's status are unresolved.

If the officer has facts that establish probable cause to believe that a person already lawfully detained has violated 8 USC § 1326(a) and the penalty may be subject to enhancement due to prior conviction for specified aggravated felonies, he/she may arrest the individual for that offense (Government Code § 7284.6).

An officer shall not detain any individual, for any length of time, for any other criminal immigration violation of federal immigration laws (Government Code § 7284.6).

An officer should notify a supervisor as soon as practicable whenever an individual is arrested for violation of 8 USC § 1326(a).

428.8.1 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

When notified that an officer has arrested an individual for violation of 8 USC § 1326(a) or under the authority of a judicial warrant, the supervisor should determine whether it is appropriate to:

- (a) Transfer the person to federal authorities.
- (b) Transfer the person to jail.

428.9 INFORMATION SHARING

No member of this department will prohibit, or in any way restrict, any other member from doing any of the following regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual (8 USC § 1373; Government Code § 7284.6):

- (a) Sending information to, or requesting or receiving such information from federal immigration officials
- (b) Maintaining such information in department records
- (c) Exchanging such information with any other federal, state, or local government entity

Nothing in this policy restricts sharing information that is permissible under the California Values Act.

428.9.1 IMMIGRATION DETAINERS

No individual should be held based solely on a federal immigration detainer under 8 CFR 287.7 (Government Code § 7284.6).

Notification to a federal authority may be made prior to release of an individual who is the subject of a notification request only if the individual meets one of the following conditions (Government Code § 7282.5; Government Code § 7284.6):

- (a) The individual has been arrested and had a judicial probable cause determination for a serious or violent felony identified in Penal Code § 667.5(c) or Penal Code § 1192.7(c).
- (b) The individual has been arrested and had a judicial probable cause determination for a felony punishable by time in a state prison.

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- (c) The individual has been convicted of an offense as identified in Government Code § 7282.5(a).
- (d) The individual is a current registrant on the California Sex and Arson Registry.
- (e) The individual is identified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement as the subject of an outstanding federal felony arrest warrant.

428.9.2 WARRANT SIGNED BY A JUDGE

A detainer will be acted upon **ONLY** for arrestees with pending criminal cases who would normally be held for further criminal proceedings, provided the ICE immigration detainer is accompanied with an arrest warrant signed by a judge. **AN ICE DETAINER ALONE SHALL NOT BE HONORED.**

Valid warrants of arrest, regardless of crime, shall be treated equally and shall not be confused with a request for notification and/or immigration detainer. This policy does not affect the proper handling of arrests and detentions associated with arrest warrants.

428.9.3 TRANSFERS TO IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES

Members shall not transfer an individual to immigration authorities unless one of the following circumstances exist (Government Code § 7282.5; Government Code § 7284.6):

- (a) Transfer is authorized by a judicial warrant or judicial probable cause determination.
- (b) The individual has been convicted of an offense as identified in Government Code § 7282.5(a).
- (c) The individual is a current registrant on the California Sex and Arson Registry.
- (d) The individual is identified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement as the subject of an outstanding federal felony arrest warrant.

428.9.4 REPORTING TO CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Investigations Unit supervisor shall ensure that data regarding the number of transfers of an individual to immigration authorities, as permitted by Government Code § 7284.6(a)(4), and the offense that allowed for the transfer is collected and provided to the Records Supervisor for required reporting to the DOJ (Government Code § 7284.6(c)(2)(see the Records Department Policy).

428.10 TRAINING

The Training Manager should ensure that all appropriate members receive training on immigration issues.

Training should include:

- (a) Identifying civil versus criminal immigration violations.
- (b) Factors that may be considered in determining whether a criminal immigration violation has been committed.

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- (c) Prohibitions contained in the California Values Act (Government Code § 7284 et seq.).

428.11 REVISIONS

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