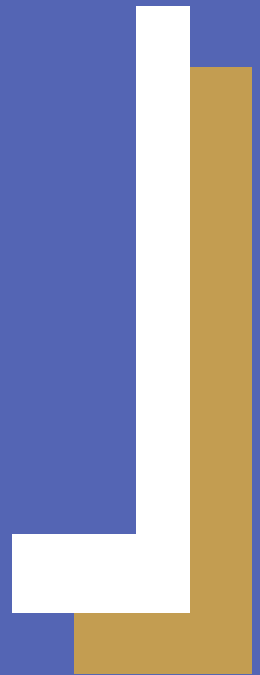




THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI

What Churches Should Know About Immigration Enforcement (ICE)



Important:
This is NOT legal advice.
Churches and individuals
should consult qualified
immigration attorneys or
legal professionals for
specific legal guidance.



INTRODUCTION

What to Know About ICE & Your Congregation



- Churches are not required to enforce immigration law.
- ICE generally cannot enter private areas (offices, classrooms, residences) without a valid judicial warrant.
- ICE can be present in public areas without a warrant.
- A church's designation as a "sanctuary" does not provide legal immunity from federal enforcement.

For up-to-date legal information and concrete protocols, consult an immigration attorney before acting or creating internal policies.

From the National Episcopal Church



THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 

The national Episcopal church has provided an Immigration Action Toolkit (<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/immigration-action-toolkit/>) in the ongoing support of migrants and those living in our communities who face uncertain futures. Obtaining and sharing accurate information is critical.

St. Louis Based Support & Rapid Response Resources

St. Louis Rapid Response Coalition

- A community network that provides coordinated support if immigration enforcement activity is reported in the region.
- ICE/Immigration Activity Hotline: 314-370-7080 (report sightings or concerns).

Immigrant Service & Legal Support Hub

International Institute of St. Louis

- Provides general immigrant support services, including information, referrals, and community programming (not ICE legal defense).

Legal Assistance Organizations (St. Louis)

Churches can refer individuals or invite these partners to present a Know-Your-Rights workshop:

Community-Focused Legal Services

- MICA Project – nonprofit offering immigration legal services, removal defense, naturalization help, asylum support, and community education.
- Legal Services of Eastern Missouri – legal aid, including immigrant law assistance (visa petitions, citizenship, asylum).
- Monarch Immigrant Services – immigration legal services, including guidance and representation.

Private Immigration Attorneys (For Referrals)

These firms do not provide free legal services but may assist referred individuals:

- Hacking Immigration Law, LLC – Immigration attorney
- EMC Immigration Law – Immigration attorney
- Hannah E. Sullivan – Immigration law services
- CoxEsq, PC – Immigration attorney
- CG Immigration Law – Immigration attorney
- American Immigration Law Group – Immigration attorney
- Greta Morina Immigration / Legacy Family and Immigration Law Firm LLC – Immigration attorney
- Immigration Law Group – Immigration attorney
- Guerreros Law – Immigration law support

Note: This list is for referral purposes only. Contacting a qualified immigration attorney for individual situations is highly recommended.

MO Based Support & Rapid Response Resources

Statewide & Regional Immigration Legal Resources

- [Legal Aid of Western Missouri – Immigration Law Services](#)

Free or low-cost civil legal assistance including immigration help, USCIS filings, adjustment of status, family-based petitions, naturalization, T/U visas, and referrals. Serves clients across western Missouri (including Kansas City area).

- [The Asylum Clinic Kansas City \(ACKC\)](#)

Nonprofit focused on providing legal services and support to immigrants and refugees, including asylum support and community empowerment in the Kansas City region.

- [Catholic Charities of Central & Northern Missouri – Family Immigration Services](#)

Offers low-fee immigration legal services aimed at family reunification and other immigration benefits for individuals and families in central and northern Missouri (outside of the St. Louis metro).

- [ImmigrationLawHelp.org – National Legal Aid Locator](#)

An online tool where individuals can search by ZIP code to find low-cost and pro bono immigration legal services across Missouri and nationwide.

Local Immigration Support in Other Missouri Cities

Kansas City Area

- Legal Aid and pro bono immigration attorneys (found via local legal aid directories and Kansas City-area services).

Springfield Area

- Legal Services of Southern Missouri – offers civil legal assistance, including some immigration-related support in southwest Missouri.

(Note: Many regions outside St. Louis have networks of private immigration attorneys who may offer consultations or referrals.)

Missouri Refugee & Immigrant Program Support

- [Missouri Office of Refugee Administration \(MO-ORA\)](#)

Statewide coordinating organization focused on refugee resettlement and inclusion efforts throughout Missouri. Partners with local resettlement agencies and service providers to connect refugees and immigrants with resources statewide.

Other Community Support

While not ICE-specific, these local organizations can offer ongoing support and referrals:

- Catholic Charities – Immigration Services (legal aid, case management, support).
- International Institute of St. Louis – immigrant resource hub.

Suggested Church Action Steps

- Designate a team or point person in the congregation for sharing updates and resources.
- Partner with local legal nonprofits to offer workshops on rights and steps to take if enforcement agents arrive.
- Develop a communication plan for congregants and families who may be impacted.
- Keep emergency contacts (hotline, attorneys) readily accessible.



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“I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

— Matthew 25:35

Complete List of Links Referenced

Know-Your-Rights & General Guidance

- ACLU of Missouri – Guidance for Places of Worship

<https://www.aclu-mo.org/know-your-rights/guidance-places-worship-immigration-enforcement/>

Rapid Response & ICE Activity Reporting

- St. Louis ICE Activity Hotline (background & verification)

<https://www.stlpr.org/government-politics-issues/2025-02-10/st-louis-immigrant-groups-ice-activity-hotline>

- Ashrei Foundation – St. Louis Rapid Response Coalition

<https://www.ashreifoundation.org/rapid-response>

Local St. Louis Immigration Legal & Support Organizations

- MICA Project (Migrant & Immigrant Community Action Project)

<https://www.mica-project.org/>

- Monarch Immigrant Services (St. Louis)

<https://monarchstl.org/>

- International Institute of St. Louis

<https://www.iistl.org/>

- Catholic Charities of St. Louis – Immigration Services

<https://ccstl.org/services/services-for-immigrants/>

- Legal Services of Eastern Missouri – Immigration Law Project

<https://www.lsem.org/>

- Immigration Advocates – Legal Directory (LSEM listing)

<https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/organization.393053->

[Legal_Services_of_Eastern_Missouri_Immigration_Law_Project_St_Louis_Office](#)

Complete List of Links Referenced(cont.)

National Faith-Based & Educational Resources

- National Council of Churches – Immigration Resources
- <https://nationalcouncilofchurches.us/immigration-resources/>

St. Louis Immigrant Resource Hubs

- Start Here STL – Immigrant Services Directory
- <https://www.startherestl.org/immigrant-services.html>

Sanctuary Space: Becoming A Sanctuary Congregation

Communities of faith within the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Missouri may discern and declare themselves places of sanctuary in order to advocate and offer safe spaces for those who are being threatened or persecuted because of their legal status.

Learn more about Sanctuary Spaces through the link below.

<https://diocesemo.org/connect/news/sanctuary-congregations>



Links are provided for informational purposes only and do not constitute legal advice. Availability of services and enforcement policies may change. Churches and individuals should consult licensed immigration attorneys for legal guidance.

Important Reminder

This handout is not a substitute for legal advice. For specific situations, churches and individuals should consult a licensed immigration attorney or legal professional. Immigration law can change, and professional guidance helps ensure rights and best practices are protected.



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