

What Healthcare workers need to know about an ICE raid.

What Is an ICE Raid?

An ICE raid occurs when agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) visit locations, including hospitals, without prior notice, as part of an investigation involving an employee or patient.

Key Points to Know:

1. ICE Agents Are Not Police Officers

- ICE agents are *not* police officers, but their uniforms may display the words “Police” or “Federal Agent.”
- They may carry weapons and are sometimes accompanied by local law enforcement officers during raids.

2. Patient Information and Legal Requirements

- Medical providers can *only* disclose patient information to ICE or law enforcement under specific legal circumstances, such as when presented with a:
 - Court order
 - Judicial warrant
 - Subpoena or summons issued by a judge

3. If ICE Agents Lack a Judicial Warrant

- If an ICE agent does not have a judicial warrant, they may rely on an administrative request, like a summons issued by a federal or state agency (e.g., the Department of Homeland Security).
- Without these documents, providing patient information—even a name—constitutes a **HIPAA violation**.

4. What to Do If ICE Agents Have a Warrant or Request

- Always ask to see the warrant or administrative request. They are legally required to let you examine it.
- Be aware that ICE agents rarely carry judicial warrants or valid requests.

5. Your Right to Protect Patients

- Even if they present valid documentation, you have the right to withhold information if disclosing it would:
 - Endanger the patient
 - Jeopardize your safety as the provider
 - Compromise the well-being of others in the hospital
- You can request that ICE agents leave the unit if necessary.

Remember Your Oath

In moments like these, it's crucial to uphold your duty as a medical professional. A patient's immigration status should *never* affect the care they receive.