

Here are some things you can do right away.

Take these steps to make a short-term plan for your child's care in case you're detained.

Know Your Rights. You have the right to:

- Call a lawyer or your family if you're detained.
- Be visited by a lawyer in detention.

1



Decide who will care for your child.

If you're having trouble deciding, ask these questions:

- Is the person someone you trust?
- Will they be able to take care of your child for as long as you need them to?
- Will you be able to communicate with the person regularly?

If you don't have an adult you trust with your child's care, talk to an immigration lawyer or a community organization you trust about your options.

2



Let others know who will care for your child.

Make sure your children, other family members, and close friends know who will take care of your child and their contact information.

- If your child is young, sew the information into their backpack so it's always accessible.
- If your child has a phone, save it in the phone's contacts.

Give your child's school and all of the other places your child visits (daycare, babysitter, sports teams, after school programs, etc.) the name and contact information of the person who will care for your child.

- Make sure to update the "blue card" at your child's school with this information.

3



Make the role of the person who will care for your child official.

This will make it easier for teachers, doctors, and other people to share important information with the person who will care for your child.

Fill out a form called a "Designation of a Person in a Parental Relation." It gives the person who will care for your child the legal power to make some educational and medical decisions for your child. Find the form by asking a local immigrants' rights organization or going to ocfs.ny.gov and searching their forms. You don't have to go to court to get one.

The form can be set up so that it only takes effect if a certain event happens (for example, if you're detained, or if you don't come home after a certain amount of time). You can still set one up after you've been detained.

You keep all of your rights as a parent—and you can change the form or cancel it at any time.

NOTE: If there is already a court order relating to your child's care, you may not be able to set up a "Designation of a Person in a Parental Relation."

4



Make copies of important documents and give them to the person who will care for your child.

- Passports and/or other identification documents
- Birth certificates
- Medical records
- School records

5



Meet with a lawyer and community organizations that help immigrants.

An immigration lawyer can help you understand the specifics of your family's situation and other legal steps you can take to prepare.

Call 311 and ask for:

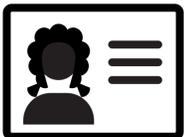
- The Action NYC program, which can provide you with free legal help.
- The names of community-based organizations in your area that support immigrant families.

Learn about other legal options for your child's care →

Plan For Your Child's Future!



If you're worried about being deported, you can prepare now to make sure your child will be cared for by someone you trust.

- 1 Decide who will care for your child.** 
- 2 Let others, like your family, friends, and your child's school, know who will care for your child.** 
- 3 Make the role of the person who will care for your child official with a "Designation of a Person in a Parental Relation" form.** 
- 4 Make copies of important documents and give them to the person who will care for your child.** 
- 5 Meet with a lawyer and community organizations that help immigrants.** 

There are other legal options for your child's care, but they involve going to court and have more risks.

You'll need a lawyer's help to make sure they're right for you and your family.

This poster is part of a training series by the Center for Family Life, created in collaboration with the Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP) and designer Lizania Cruz. To find out more, call the Center for Family Life at **718.438.9500** or visit **cflsp.org**.