



IMIrJ
Interfaith Movement
for Immigrant Justice

Emergency Physical Sanctuary Basics *Feb. 2017*

Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIrJ)
503.550.3510

REMEMBER!

Call the **Portland area Raid/Detention Hotline** to report any ICE/police/border patrol activity that you witness. Even if you are unsure of what are seeing, *call!* This should be your first resource. This is staffed by members of the Portland Immigrants' Rights Coalition who can give you guidance and references.

PIRC HOTLINE
1-888-622-1510

Post this number at entrances to your community. Save it in your phone. Share with all.

What to do if ICE comes to your faith community

Until we can officially verify otherwise, ICE is still bound by its own policy against conducting enforcement actions at or near "[sensitive locations](#)"

(<https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>) - this specifically includes houses of worship. You can cite this!

- **Ask for a warrant.** A warrant is a document signed by a judge that authorizes officials to enter a home or workplace. If the agents have a warrant, review it to determine if they have searched an area that is not authorized in the warrant. To be valid, an arrest warrant must have the name of the person they are looking for. A valid search warrant must specify the address they are going to search, which places (in detail) they are going to search, and what they are looking for.
- **No warrant?** If the agents enter without a valid warrant, ask for the names and badge numbers of the agents. *You can state that you do not consent to the search.*
- **Set up a phone tree/mass text for your community.** A witness to ICE activity at your place of worship can activate the phone tree so that faith community members, friends, and neighbors can immediately come to their church, synagogue, temple or mosque. Strong, peaceful community witness is powerful and dissuasive. IMIrJ can help you with this and activate the IMIrJ network too!
- **Call the PIRC (Portland Immigrant Rights' Coalition) HOTLINE (1-888-622-1510)** for immediate guidance. PIRC can activate and send help, observers, and even activate their Rapid Response Network.

What to do if someone requests physical sanctuary in your faith community

Things to remember:

- Seeking “Sanctuary” is the absolute last resort for anyone. This occurs only when all other options have been exhausted.
- Those who seek “Sanctuary” generally have a pre-existing relationship with the faith community who might offer such accompaniment.
- Nearly all cases of “Sanctuary” do not occur suddenly, but rather happen after a series of conversations and encounters between congregation members and the Sanctuary seeker. An agreement of some sort is reached beforehand.

- Other accompaniment options to consider:
 - Temporary “safe haven” for a person or family to have safe space to consider their options. This does not mean long-term sanctuary. This could be a few hours or overnight.
 - A family in the congregation might offer their home for temporary, overnight shelter. *IMIrJ also has a list of families who may be able to do this.*
 - Find another faith community to offer Sanctuary

- **And, finally - Call IMIrJ at 503-550-3510!** IMIrJ reps and allies can help you in the initial conversations with someone seeking Sanctuary. These conversations will include:
 - A thorough intake to gather all information about the person, the family, the legal situation, etc.
 - Overview of options.
 - Contact with other faith communities to secure their support.
 - Provision of legal referrals (immigration attorneys).