

WHAT TO TELL FAMILY MEMBERS WHO CALL YOU



If they are looking for a family member, give them information from “How to find a detained person,” Page 4

ACTION STEPS FAMILIES CAN TAKE:

1. **Immediately collect** the immigration documents of the person in detention. (You need to find their A number and obtain a copy of the “**Notice to Appear**”, an immigration charging document.) See **Appendix C**, for more document collection material.
2. Do they know if their loved one has a **prior deportation order or criminal arrests**? Get details of what offense was committed, when and where. Get copies of their criminal record at the County office in which they were convicted.
3. Call the **telephone company** to remove any blocks on their phones so their loved ones can contact them.
4. **Undocumented** individuals should not visit the jail or detention center.
5. Before visiting a family member, call the facility and ask about **visitation restrictions and hours**.
6. Has the loved one **designated individuals to take care of children, property, etc.** if detained? Children may be placed in child protective services if a parent is not available. The detained person can give legal power to someone they trust to make important decisions on their behalf while they are detained. This is called a “power of attorney” and varies from state to state.
7. If they want to **hire a lawyer**, provide them with referrals of lawyers experienced in deportation defense. Make sure that the lawyer has reviewed the immigration charging document, called a Notice to Appear, or has reviewed other immigration papers/background information of the detained person. Sign a contract for services with the lawyer called a “retainer” agreement.



**If the person is unhappy with the services of their lawyer, tell them to keep communications with the lawyer in writing.

8. **Send** them “I am detained by Immigration... What are my rights?”
http://www.nationalimmigrationproject.org/ImmRightsRes/crkit_files/KYRDetention.pdf