



Executive Actions from Trump Administration¹

1. Move to End birthright citizenship

- a. President Trump signed an executive order seeking to remove birthright citizenship for individual's whose mother has no legal status or is in the country on a temporary visa and when the individual's father was not a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident at the time of birth.
- b. Executive Action was immediately halted by restraining order by a Federal Judge who stated that "[t]here is a strong likelihood that ...the Executive Order violates the Fourteenth Amendment and the Immigration and Nationality Act." This issue will likely find its way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

2. Expedited Removal

- a. Expedited removal permits U.S. officials to remove someone in the United States unlawfully without being provided access to an Immigration Judge. U.S. officials will be authorized to arrest someone accused of entering the country without inspection anywhere inside the U.S. and remove them if they believe that person has been here for less than two years. Immigrants will need to prove that they have been in the United States for longer than two years to be able to seek a court hearing.

3. Expansion of INA 287(g)

- a. 287(g) is a provision of law that seeks to engage state and local law enforcement as partners in enforcing federal immigration law and allows local law enforcement to perform certain functions of federal immigration agents. The Trump Administration is seeking to increase the number of local areas that can assist in enforcement actions.

4. Sealing the Border

- a. Reinstating the Remain in Mexico policy
- b. Eliminating the Use of CBPOne App
- c. Declaring a national emergency to unlock funding to for the construction of a border wall and other border barriers and detention facilities
- d. Engaging the US military along Northern and Southern borders to stop unlawful entries
- e. Establishing a process to declare certain cartels "foreign terrorist organizations"

5. Impacting Legal Immigration

- a. Reducing the use of parole programs. Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan and Venezuelan parole programs were recently terminated on January 20, 2025.
- b. Review of Temporary Protected Status, which is granted to individuals from countries that are suffering from political instability, natural disasters or war.
 - i. Extension of TPS provided to Venezuelans and Haitians was recently terminated.

6. Suspension of Refugee Program

- a. The Trump Administration suspended arrival of refugees to the United States on January 27, 2025. This was blocked by a federal judge in Washington on February 25, 2025.

7. Laken Riley Act

- a. ICE must detain individuals (1) unlawfully present in the United States or did not possess the necessary documents when applying for admission; and (2) charged with, arrested for, convicted of, or admits to having committed acts that constitute the essential elements of burglary, theft, larceny, or shoplifting.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

1. I have an immigration problem, but am unsure on what to do – where do I start?

- a. Consult with an Immigration Attorney – Finding a solution requires you to be proactive and your own advocate. If your car starts to make a strange sound, you take it to a mechanic; if you have a pain in your chest, you make an appointment with your doctor. If you have an immigration problem, seek out the help of an immigration attorney to diagnose your issue and give you a strategy on how to get your situation remedied. The process may take time, but just like every journey, you can only reach your destination if you start walking towards it.
- b. Set up a plan with your family on what to do in case of emergency. Enlist the help of a Family Law Attorney in preparing a Power of Attorney in case you are detained. A Power of Attorney allows others to make decisions for you if you are unavailable.
- c. Be calm and carry on. This is a stressful period, but if you spend all of your time in fear of the unknown, you will miss out on the things that are actually happening. Spend time doing the things that you enjoy and with the people you love; otherwise, you will be missing out on the most important of things – your life.

2. If I am encountered by ICE or other law enforcement, what should I do?

- a. Do not run, argue or resist a law enforcement officer or lie about your status. Good things rarely come to those that are combative when confronted by law enforcement.
- b. You have the right to remain silent and not discuss your immigration status. Anything that you say or admit to can and may be used against you at a later point in time. Most states do require you to provide law enforcement with your name, but you do not need to answer any other questions beyond this.
- c. You have the right to decline a search. Immigration officers do not have the right to enter your home or place of residence without a warrant. If ICE officers are at your doorstep and requesting to enter, they must provide you with a warrant signed by a judge permitting them to enter your home. They do not need a warrant if you voluntarily allow them to come in. A warrant of removal/deportation (Form I-205) does not allow officers to enter your home.
- d. Keep a photocopy of your immigration documents nearby, such as in a handbag or in the glove compartment in your car. If you have a green card or work permit, be sure to carry the physical card with you. Any court or receipt notices should be kept in a safe place. You may also want to take a picture of these documents with your phone, so you can access them quickly.

3. If you are detained by ICE and placed into removal proceedings:

- a. Don't panic – the majority of people who are detained while their case is underway are eligible to be released on bond or with other reporting conditions.
- b. Find an attorney that is skilled in deportation and removal defense. They will help to prepare you for your hearing with an Immigration Judge. You will not be provided with a free attorney by the court.
- c. Be proactive in obtaining documents. Most immigration cases focus on convincing a judge that you are a person of good character. Proving this requires that we show that you have paid taxes, helped people in your community, are a valued employee or business owner, do not have any crimes. As mentioned in #1, speak with an immigration attorney to get a strategy in place.