

What Trump's Election Means for Your Immigration Status

RIGHT NOW

First, take some deep breaths.

Donald Trump will not be the President until January 20, 2017. He cannot change policies before then.

Even after Trump becomes President, he will not be able to implement new policies right away. For example, if he decides to deport more people, he would need to hire and train more agents. He will not send out "deportation forces" on his first day in office—and most likely not for many weeks afterward.

We DO NOT KNOW what the new President will do on immigration, though we do know that he will likely make some changes to executive actions. Already Mr. Trump is saying things that are different from what he said during the campaign. All we can do is be prepared, in case the things we fear do come true.

WHAT TO KNOW

If you are a U.S. CITIZEN, you are safe.

You are also very safe if you have a GREEN CARD (Legal Permanent Residence). Your immigration status will not be changed. People with green cards can only be deported if, for example, they have certain criminal convictions, or the government finds out someone was claiming to already have U.S. citizenship, and so forth, and only after an Immigration Judge hears their case.

If you are waiting for the government to decide an application or petition that you already submitted, nothing has changed. The law that lets you apply for things like a U visa, or for a spouse to get permanent residence, still exist. The President can't change the law on his own; he needs Congress to act, and that will take a lot of time, if it even happens at all.

WHAT TO DO

If you are UNDOCUMENTED or have DACA or TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS, we know you are probably afraid right now, but please know that there are many things you can do before January.

Go see an immigration lawyer. A good attorney will advise you about your immigration options and whether there are any risks to applying. Resources for finding an attorney are below.

DO start planning for your family in case things do change, and more people are detained and put in immigration court for deportation proceedings.

- Keep a list of phone numbers for trusted people who can help in an emergency, including your children's school, teacher, doctor, and any important medical information.
- Keep all your important documents (passports, birth certificates, title to your car, etc) in a safe place in your home. Make sure at least one trusted person knows where those documents are.
- Choose someone to look after your children if anything happens. Give that person a power of attorney which would start *if* you are detained by immigration. A lawyer can help you with this.

DO know your rights if ICE comes to your door, your work, or elsewhere. This website has excellent information: <https://www.ilrc.org/red-cards>. And remember that in Montgomery County, the police do not enforce immigration law.

FINDING LEGAL HELP

If you can afford an attorney, look for one at <http://www.aialawyer.org/> or ask your friends and teachers at school to see if they know any trusted lawyers.

Another resource for legal help is the Immigration Legal Directory here which is available in multiple languages: <https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/>

If you cannot afford an attorney, these local non-profits may be able to help:

In Montgomery, Prince George's and Howard Counties:

- Ayuda: www.ayuda.com (near the Takoma metro) (202-387-4848)
- Catholic Charities: <https://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/ILS> (offices near Wheaton) (301-942-1790)
- KIND: www.supportkind.org (202-824-8680)
- FIRN: <http://www.firnonline.org> (in Columbia and Laurel): 410-992-1923

In Baltimore:

- Esperanza Center/Catholic Charities of Baltimore: 410-534-8015
- Tahirih Justice Center: 410-999-1900 (between 10am and 2pm on Tuesdays)
- KIND: www.supportkind.org
- World Relief Immigration Clinic: 7 East Baltimore Street, Baltimore MD 21202; consults on second and fourth Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m. The consult costs \$60.

In Easton:

- Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center: www.chesmrc.org, 443-786-1120

In Harford County:

- LASOS: www.lasos.org, 410-836-0333

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