DIGNITY TOOLKIT · COMMUNITY GUIDE

A community that looks after itself

How the alert groups in your neighborhood work, and what to do in an emergency.

When there is fear, accurate information protects and rumors hurt. This guide explains what the groups in your neighborhood do, how you can help without putting yourself at risk, and how to protect yourself and your family.

The groups you will see in your neighborhood

Rapid Response

- A network of trained volunteers that moves when someone reports immigration activity, or when a detention has just happened.
- **It verifies before it alerts.** It uses codes, not names, and never asks anyone's immigration status.
- It connects families to legal help.

Observers and neighborhood watch (ICE Watch)

- Neighbors and volunteers who go in pairs and observe from a safe distance.
- **They don't intervene:** they don't block, touch, follow or confront. They are witnesses.
- They report what they see to verification, not to social media.

Alert groups (WhatsApp)

- They receive alerts that have already been verified.
- They are for staying informed, not for opinions or speculation.
- You can leave any time.

How to tell a reliable alert

- **It says whether it is confirmed.** "Confirmed" or "unconfirmed."
- **It gives facts:** where, how many people, what they are doing, what time.
- **It comes from more than one source,** not an anonymous chain message.
- **It doesn't use panic:** be wary of messages in all caps with many exclamation marks.

If you see something, report it without spreading it

- Tell a trusted group or Dignity Toolkit, with facts: **where, how many, what they are doing, what time**.
- **Don't forward** what you haven't checked.
- **Don't post** photos of neighbors' or children's faces. It can expose them.
- Keep your distance. Your safety comes first.

Staying calm protects, too.

When there is no immediate danger, calm and facts protect more than fear. Looking after each other as neighbors is presence, not confrontation.

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If there is immigration activity: what to do

General information from public guides by immigrant-rights organizations. Not legal advice.

At home

- **Don't open the door** unless they show a warrant signed by a judge.
- ICE "administrative warrants" don't give the right to enter. Ask them to slide the paper under the door.
- Say: "I do not consent to your entry."
- You don't have to talk. You can say: "I want to remain silent and speak with an attorney."
- **Don't sign anything.** If they force their way in, don't resist. Note names, time and what happened.

In the street

- Stay calm. Don't run and don't resist.
- You don't have to answer questions about where you were born or how you entered.
- You can ask: "Am I free to go?"
- Don't lie or show false documents.
- Ask to speak with an attorney before you sign or answer.

If someone is detained

- Write down their full name, date of birth and, if you know it, their A-number.
- Search for them on ICE's locator: **locator.ice.gov**.
- Call an attorney and Dignity Toolkit.
- If you are detained: say if you have health issues or children to care for, and ask for an interpreter.

Protect yourself ahead of time: a family plan

- **Decide who cares for the children** if you can't, and make sure that person has their information.
- **Gather your documents** and copies in one folder, and tell someone you trust where it is.
- **Memorize two phone numbers:** a relative and legal help. Also write them on paper.
- **Know your case.** Talk with an attorney before there is an emergency.

Useful numbers

Dignity Toolkit: (561) 445-6141 (call or text)

Free legal help in NYC (ActionNYC): 800-354-0365, Monday to Friday 9 to 6, or dial 311 and say "ActionNYC"

Emergency: 911

Emotional crisis: 988 (press 2 for Spanish)

Laws and procedures change. Talk with an attorney about your situation. Verify phone numbers and hours before relying on them.