

Resources for Early Learning Programs

Informational Guidance on Immigration Enforcement Actions in Early Learning and Child Care Settings

The Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) is aware of increased Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity in Oregon communities, including near early learning and care settings. We want to reaffirm that DELIC follows Oregon's sanctuary laws and is committed to supporting all families and providers.

We're sharing this informational guidance that may help early learning providers support families during this time. The materials referenced below in this guidance were developed by trusted national organizations, including the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC). DELIC did not create these materials and is not offering legal advice, nor should it be interpreted as such. The resources and links below are for informational purposes only, are not comprehensive, and do not replace legal advice. Families and providers with legal questions should consult an attorney.

This guide includes information on the following topics:

- Ways providers may be able to help families, including community resources (Page 1)
- Supportive guidance to help providers sustain reliable care for children (Page 2),
- What you can expect from DELIC during this time (Page 3),
- Maintaining confidentiality in early learning and child care settings (Page 4), and
- Oregon's sanctuary laws (Page 5).

For more information about the Central Background Registry, please visit

<https://www.oregon.gov/delc/providers/pages/cbr.aspx>

Ways providers may be able to help support families:

- **Help families to make a family preparedness plan.**
Providers can encourage families to create a family preparedness plan. This may include identifying caregivers or completing legal documents like a delegation of parental powers.

- **Immigrant Legal Resource Center's (ILRC) - Step-by-Step Guidance on Creating a Family Preparedness Plan in Spanish, English, and Chinese:**
<https://www.ilrc.org/community-resources/family-preparedness-plan>
- **Encourage families to keep emergency contacts updated.**
 Make sure families have current emergency contact information on file with all child care providers and schools.
- **Connect families with resources.**
 - **Immigration Advocates Network:** Families can search for free or low-cost immigration legal services through the Immigration Advocates Network.
 - <https://www.immigrationlawhelp.org>
 - **Office of Immigration and Refugee Advancement Resource Guide:**
 These hold general information to help families understand available supports and connect to trusted organizations that offer legal and community services.
 - <https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/about/Pages/oira.aspx>
- **Share “Know Your Rights” materials.**
 Families can learn about their rights as parents and individuals.
 - <https://www.ilrc.org/community-resources/know-your-rights-and-what-immigrant-families-should-do-now>

Supportive guidance to help providers sustain reliable care for children:

- **Ensure the provider's emergency preparedness plan is up to date.**
 Providers should ensure that their own emergency preparedness plan is up to date and review with their staff regularly. DELC's Child Care Licensing Division recommends reviewing and updating this plan at least once a year. These plans identify roles and responsibilities for procedures that outline how all children will be safe and addressing the needs of children. Programs should also have a plan for communicating with families and identifying an emergency contact. To download an emergency plan template for your type of care, please visit:
<https://www.oregon.gov/delc/resources/pages/default.aspx#ResourceDocuments>

- **Supporting care through parent involvement.**

Parent volunteers are a valued part of our early learning and care communities. DELC knows that parent volunteers can play a vital role during emergencies by assisting with supervision, communication, and ensuring children's safety. To maintain a safe and secure environment, all parent volunteers must be enrolled in the Central Background Registry (CBR) prior to volunteering. If you'd like them to be available as a substitute, they should also complete the necessary training for that role. We strongly encourage families interested in volunteering, especially those who may be available and willing to help during emergencies, to begin the CBR enrollment process as early as possible.

Additional information can be found on DELC's website at:

<https://www.oregon.gov/delc/providers/pages/cbr.aspx> and questions can also be directed through the CCLD Customer Service Hotline at 1-800-556-6616.

- **Maintaining compliance & contacting DELC for support.**

We understand that immigration enforcement actions may have an impact on your ability to maintain required staff-to-child ratios and to be able to continue care. Providers are encouraged to contact their licensing specialist or the CCLD Customer Service Hotline at 1-800-556-6616 as soon as possible in the event of a staffing emergency. We are here to offer guidance and explore available supports to ensure the continuity of care for children and their families, while maintaining the health and safety needs that are met with adequate supervision.

What you can expect from DELC at this time:

You can trust that DELC will continue to prioritize the health, safety, and well-being of Oregon's children. Routine inspections and visits from our team are not impacted by any recent changes related to immigration enforcement and are solely focused on helping early learning programs and providers meet safety standards.

DELC staff members will always identify themselves with their employee badges when conducting visits to child care and early learning programs.

Our mission is to create a system where every child has access to high-quality early learning and care opportunities, and we believe that this starts with fostering trust and partnership in our communities.

Maintaining confidentiality in early learning and child care settings:

The Central Background Registry (CBR) is the Child Care Licensing Division's (CCLD) background check. DELC maintains this registry of individuals whose background has been approved to be associated with a child care facility in Oregon pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute 329A.030 and Oregon Administrative Rules 414-061-0000 through 414-061-0120. DELC collects personal information for the CBR, however this information is not shared other than to approve enrollment in the CBR and is not produced in response to public records requests. Oregon law does not allow DELC staff to share data or information for reporting individuals to immigration authorities based on known or suspected citizenship or immigration status.

For more information about the Central Background Registry, please visit

<https://www.oregon.gov/delc/providers/pages/cbr.aspx>

No DELC staff members, including licensing specialists, are authorized to share the immigration status of a child, child care provider, or family participating in DELC programs without a judicial warrant, subpoena, or court order explicitly signed by a judge (not issued solely by an agency).

If you have questions or concerns, please contact our Incident Response Team at DELC.IRT@delc.oregon.gov.

Oregon's sanctuary laws:

Oregon sanctuary laws are intended to help everyone in our state to live, work, go to school, and access government services without fear of discrimination or unnecessary inquiries into their personal background. These laws also help public agencies, including DELC, focus on what matters most: supporting children, families, and providers.

For questions about immigration enforcement or interpreting Oregon's Sanctuary laws, visit the Oregon Department of Justice's website:

- **Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ)**, Civil Rights Unit (CRU) Sanctuary Promise Community Toolkit: <https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/civil-rights/sanctuary-promise/community-toolkit>
- **Oregon's Sanctuary Promise Hotline:** Call 1-844-924-STAY (7829) (any language), 1-844-6-AMPARO (1-844-626-7276) (Spanish), or report online any time and in any language at SanctuaryPromise.Oregon.gov or PromesaSantuario.Oregon.gov (Spanish language website)

For additional information, visit the Oregon Department of Justice's Sanctuary Promise Community Toolkit: <https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/civil-rights/sanctuary-promise/community-toolkit/>

To connect families to organizations that provide support, please refer to these community resources:

- **Oregon Law Help:**
<https://oregonlawhelp.org/resources/protect-your-family>
- **ACLU of Oregon** - Know Your Rights, Immigrants' Rights:
<https://www.aclu-or.org/en/know-your-rights-immigrants-rights>
- **Latino Network:** - Inmigración Recursos:
<https://www.latnet.org/immigration-legal-navigation-services>
- **Immigrant Legal Resource Center:** - <https://www.ilrc.org/community-resources/family-preparedness-plan>

To consider how your program can prepare, national organizations have prepared these resources:

- **CLASP** - A Guide for Creating Safe Spaces for Early Childhood Programs:
https://www.clasp.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2025_safespacesguide-v3_April-Final.pdf
- **CLASP** - Know Your Rights: Five Things Parents Detained by ICE Should Know
<https://www.clasp.org/publications/fact-sheet/know-your-rights-parents-detained-by-ice/>

Please remember that DELC is not a legal service provider and cannot offer legal advice or emergency response. We are sharing these resources to help early learning providers stay informed and support families in their communities.

If you have legal questions, please contact an attorney. The Oregon State Bar Association provides an attorney referral service and other programs that may help if you don't already have an attorney. Information can be found at their website at:

<https://www.osbar.org/public/ris>

If you have questions or concerns, please contact our Incident Response Team at DELC.IRT@delc.oregon.gov.