

GUIDANCE FOR SAINT MIRIAM SCHOOL PARENTS: SUPPORTING AND PROTECTING OUR FAMILIES

Dear Parishioners, Students, Faculty, Friends, and Team Members,

We understand that recent changes in federal immigration policies may have caused concern and uncertainty within our community. Please know that Saint Miriam Parish & School is committed to working with local organizations and stakeholders to ensure we are doing everything possible to keep our students and families safe.

After careful consideration, the Board for both entities, believes that our commitment to an enterprise rooted in respect, the Inherent Dignity of the Human person, our Catholic religious doctrine, and respect for inclusion of all persons is appropriate and necessary.

Therefore, as part of this commitment, Saint Miriam Boards and Administration have already established a protocol for staff and security guards to follow if an ICE agent(s) attempt(s) to visit our school or parish community. This protocol is designed to protect the rights and privacy of our students, faculty, and families while ensuring the safety of our entire school community. **Saint Miriam retains its designation as a PRIVATE SPACE! This memorandum reiterates our policy for who has the right to enter our space.**

To further support our families, we have included:

1. **A PDF including sample images of a VALID and INVALID Judicial Court Order** that you can use to identify the legitimacy of documents presented if ICE comes to your home.
2. **A PDF “Know Your Rights” fact sheet.**
3. **A link to Immigration Rights Information from Catholic Social Services**

We encourage you to read this information and share it with anyone who may need it. Empowering yourself and others with this knowledge is a critical step in protecting your family and community.

Additionally, if you have any urgent concerns, please contact **our School Director**, Leigh Moran at Leigh.Moran@mySaintMiriam.org or **our Pastor**, Monsignor Jim St George at Father.Jim@mySaintMiriam.org. They are both here to support and guide you.

Key Points for Community Members:

1. Protected Spaces:

Even without a Federal Policy in place, schools, hospitals, childcare centers, churches, and other places of worship retain the right to restrict immigration agents from entering their facilities. Additionally, some states and localities have added protections to ensure these spaces remain safe. Our greater church has retained that right to remain a Sanctuary Parish and will not authorize agents to enter any private space.

- **ICE Agents MAY access ‘public spaces’ such as lobbies, parking areas, and waiting areas and our sanctuary when in use and open to the public.**
- **ICE Agents NEED a valid Judicial Warrant or show Probable Cause to enter non-public spaces, classrooms, offices, living spaces, rectory, Friary, etc., OR to question anyone on our property, even if they are within public areas.**



- **ICE Agents need a Valid Warrant OR permission to enter non-public areas.**
- **ICE Agents MUST show this Valid Judicial Warrant. Do NOT open locked doors without a Warrant being shown and verified!**
- **Administrative Warrants – issued by the agency and not signed by a federal Judge - ARE NOT VALID to gain entry or to question at Saint Miriam.**

Please note: Administrative Warrants DO PERMIT an Agent to question someone IF they have probable cause to believe that they are violating the law.

2. Privacy Laws:

Schools and other community organizations are required to protect personal information and use it solely for program purposes, such as enrollment. **This information is not shared with immigration agents.** These *privacy laws are still in effect and remain a critical layer of protection for families.*

3. Raising Concerns:

If you have concerns about accessing a location- such as a school, community health care center, childcare center, church, food pantry, or other location, please share them with the staff, pastors, administration representatives, or principal at the location. They can provide information on the steps being taken to safeguard your family. Additionally, you may reach out to a trusted community-based organization to ask questions about protected areas, policy changes, and any specific concerns you may have.

4. Support Is Available:

Immigrants and their families are not alone. Advocates and service providers in our community are ready to help and support you in the weeks and months ahead. Saint Miriam is here to provide resources and connect families with trusted organizations.

Additional Resources & Vital Links:

We encourage you to review these links for updated information on how to keep protected spaces safe from unlawful immigration enforcement. [These resources will be updated as new policies emerge:](#)

- **[National Immigration Law Center](#)**
- **[Immigrant Legal Resource Center](#)**
- **[American Civil Liberties Union \(ACLU\)](#)**
- **[Catholic Social Services of Philadelphia Immigration Legal Services](#)**
- **[Immigration Rights PDF](#)**

Thank you for being part of our wonderful community where everyone is welcomed and protected.

The Staff, Pastors, Administration, and Directors at Saint Miriam



KNOWLEDGE IS POWER: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS & FAMILY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

IF ICE/POLICE COME TO YOUR HOME

- TRY TO REMAIN CALM.
- DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR.
- ASK FOR A JUDICIAL WARRANT SIGNED BY A JUDGE.
- ASK FOR THE ORDER TO BE PLACED UNDER THE DOOR OF TO BE SHOWN THROUGH A WINDOW.
- IF THEY ENTER WITHOUT PERMISSION, VERBALLY STATE THAT YOU DO NOT GRANT THEM PERMISSION TO ENTER YOUR HOME AND SEARCH YOUR BELONGINGS.
- DO NOT ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS. YOU HAVE TO RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT. IF YOU CHOOSE TO SPEAK, DO NOT LIE.
- RECORD THE EVENT, ENSURE THAT PHOTOS AND VIDEOS ARE SYNCED TO THE CLOUD.
- UTILIZE THE NOTIFICA APP IF YOU'RE AT RISK OF BEING DETAINED.

www.notifica.us



Use Notifica to send an alert to people you trust and community groups who can support you.



IF ICE/POLICE STOP YOU IN PUBLIC

- DO NOT CARRY A PASSPORT OR PROVIDE A FOREIGN ID.
 - ASK THEM TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES.
 - PROVIDE YOUR NAME ONLY.
 - DO NOT ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT.
 - IF YOU CHOOSE TO SPEAK, DO NOT LIE.
 - DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING.
 - DO NOT CONSENT TO BEING SEARCHED - VERBALLY SAY, "I DO NOT CONSENT TO BEING SEARCHED."
 - ICE LIES - DO NOT AGREE TO WHAT ICE ASKS.
- ### CARRY A RED CARD AND VERBALLY STATE YOUR RIGHT IF YOU ARE DETAINED.

Usted tiene derechos constitucionales:

• NO ABRA LA PUERTA si un agente de inmigración está tocando la puerta.

• NO CONTESTE NINGUNA PREGUNTA de un agente de inmigración si trata de hablar con usted. Usted tiene el derecho a guardar silencio.

• NO FIRME NADA sin antes hablar con un abogado. Usted tiene el derecho de hablar con un abogado.

• Si usted está fuera de su casa, pregúntele al agente si tiene la libertad de irse y si le dice que sí, váyase con tranquilidad.

• ENTREGUELE ESTA TARJETA EL AGENTE. Si usted está dentro de su casa, muestre la tarjeta por la ventana o pásela debajo de la puerta.

I do not wish to speak with you, answer your questions, or sign or hand you any documents based on my 5th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution.

I do not give you permission to enter my home based on my 4th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution unless you have a warrant to enter, signed by a judge or magistrate with my name on it that you slide under the door. I do not give you permission to search any of my belongings based on my 4th Amendment rights.

I choose to exercise my constitutional rights.

These cards are available to citizens and noncitizens alike.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS & FAMILY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

BE PROACTIVE: PREPARE YOURSELF IF YOU ARE STOPPED BY ICE/POLICE

GATHER THE FOLLOWING:

- A folder for each family member.
- Copies of identity documents.
- Copies of immigration documents.
- Copies of medical records.
- Bank information.
- Assign a trustworthy primary contact person.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR ON WARRANTS:

- Your name.
- Is it the right address?
- Is your name spelled correctly?
 - Only the person, property, and areas specified may be searched.
- It is signed by a judge and has the name of a state/federal court at the top.

LOCAL IMMIGRATION LEGAL SUPPORT:

Kate Brown, Esq
856-210-9757

Raysa Rodriguez, Esq
(215) 552-2942

Camden Center for Law & Social Justice
856-583-2950

Clarissa Moralez, Esq.
848-274-0900

SAMPLES OF WARRANTS



Judicial Warrant Example

Is this the right address?

Is it still current?

Note: only the person, property, & areas specified may be searched

Is it actually signed by a judge?

Administrative Warrant Example

Is this the right address?

Is it actually signed by a judge?

THESE ARE VISUAL CUES THAT THIS IS AN IMMIGRATION WARRANT

