

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) policy regarding immigration inquiries and notification

This policy is intended to reassure immigrant communities that there is no need to fear contact with the Sheriff's Department.

Policy Section 05-09/271.00 "Immigration Inquires and Notifications."

- Department members shall investigate criminal activity without regard to an individual's legal status.
- Department members shall not initiate police action with the objective of discovering the individual's immigration status.
- Deputies shall not arrest an individual on suspicion of violating a federal immigration law relating to illegal entry, being unlawfully present, or overstaying a visa.
- Department members shall not inquire about an individual's immigration status.
- If a victim's, witness's, or offender's immigration status is discovered during an investigation, deputies shall not forward that information to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
- Department members shall not use an immigration authority as an interpreter.
- For additional policy information visit www.lasd.org.

For Questions or Complaints please call

**Sheriff's Information Bureau
(213) 229-1700**

**Internal Affairs Bureau
(800) 698-8255**



We welcome you to contact any local Sheriff's Station for additional questions or concerns.



Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department

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IMMIGRATION INFORMATION GUIDE

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES



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Frequently Asked Questions

Can I be deported by LASD during a routine traffic stop or call for help?

Answer: No. The Sheriff's Department does not enforce federal immigration laws. Deputies from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department are prohibited from asking about a person's immigration status during routine traffic stops or calls for service.

If a deputy discovers I'm an undocumented immigrant, will the deputy arrest me for a violation of a federal immigration law?

Answer: No. Sheriff's Department policy prohibits deputies from arresting or booking an individual on suspicion of violating federal immigration laws.

Can I be deported by LASD if I report a crime or call for help?

Answer: No. The mission of the Sheriff's Department is to investigate crimes that have occurred, regardless of a victim's or offender's immigration status. When receiving a call for service, the focus of the Sheriff's Department is helping victims and witnesses, not enforcing federal immigration laws. If a victim's or a witness' immigration status is discovered during an investigation, Department personnel are prohibited by policy from notifying ICE of the person's immigration status.

What happens to a Deputy who asks about my immigration status?

Answer: A deputy sheriff who inappropriately inquires about immigration status is subject to administrative discipline.

NOTE: All forms can be downloaded by through Citizenship and Immigration Services - Website: [USCIS.gov](https://uscis.gov)

Does the Sheriff's Department assist ICE with immigration enforcement operations?

Answer: No. The Sheriff's Department does not participate in or assist ICE with immigration enforcement operations. We may participate in joint federal task force operations with federal immigration authorities **only** where the purpose of the task force is to investigate violations of local, state, or federal criminal laws unrelated to immigration enforcement.

Will I get deported by ICE from a county jail if arrested and booked for a crime?

Answer: It depends. The Federal Government has access to the fingerprints of everyone who is booked nationwide and may begin deportation proceedings. However, LASD only allows ICE access to inmates in jails who have been convicted of certain crimes as enumerated in California Senate Bill 54 (See Cal. Gov. Code section 7282.5.).

What is the procedure for a victim of a crime to apply for a "U Visa"?

Answer: The person must be a victim of a qualifying crime. In some cases, witnesses and/or family members may be eligible to apply for a U Visa. The petitioner or station detective can initiate the U Visa application (USCIS Form I-918). The form must be filled out and presented to the handling detective. The detective will review the case file and determine if the petitioner was a victim of a qualifying charge and was helpful in the investigation. The filing of criminal charges and a criminal prosecution are not requirements for our certification of the U Visa application. If all requirements are met on the application, the station or bureau captain will certify the application by signing it on the Sheriff's behalf. The original signed application is returned to the petitioner or the advocate. The petitioner shall send all applicable documents to the USCIS.

