



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



July 14, 2025

Sharmaine Moseley, Executive Director
Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission
World Trade Center
350 South Figueroa Street, Suite 288
Los Angeles, California 90071

Via Electronic Submittal

Dear Ms. Moseley:

**NOTIFICATION REGARDING LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT'S
MATERIALS REGARDING IMMIGRATION-RELATED MATTERS**

At the request of the Sheriff, the following materials are being forwarded to the Civilian Oversight Commission (COC) regarding materials that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) has issued as part of an effort to provide clarity to the community and to Department Members relating to the role the Department plays with respect to immigration-related matter.

The COC was previously notified that the Department issued a video and a press release was distributed to announce the video and the relevant Department policies associated with uniforms. Those matters were previously distributed to the COC, but the links are added again here for ease of access:

The videos are available through the below social media links:

- <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DLnkV9cJEho/?igsh=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ==>
- <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/WcR2dfRHKNM>

The press release can be found at:

- https://local.nixle.com/alert/11704977/?sub_id=0

211 WEST TEMPLE STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

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The video is now also available in Spanish and can be located here:

- https://www.instagram.com/reel/DL58oOnyd_w/?igsh=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ==

In addition, the Department has issued the following guidance to deputies:

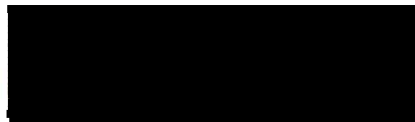
- A newsletter describing encounters with possible Immigration Enforcement Operations.
- A newsletter listing potential scenarios that deputies could encounter in the field, along with guidance on how to deal with those scenarios.
- A Watch Commander Checklist regarding Federal Enforcement Operations

These items are attached hereto for your information. The purpose of these materials is to guide Department personnel in managing incidents, reports, or encounters with federal agencies involved in immigration enforcement operations within Los Angeles County. The goal is to offer guidance in complying with the California Values Act and County policies. These operations often raise public concern and require a response from Department personnel that prioritizes safety, policy compliances, and public trust. These materials are all designed to provide clarity to the law, enhance safety, limit liability, and limit risk to Department members and the public.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



APRIL L. TARDY
UNDERSHERIFF

25-05 - Encounters Involving Possible Federal Immigration Enforcement Operations

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

NEWSLETTER

Field Operations Support Services



VOLUME 25 NUMBER 05

DATE July 11, 2025

ENCOUNTERS INVOLVING POSSIBLE FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS

PURPOSE

This Newsletter provides guidance to Department personnel when responding to reports or encounters involving U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or other federal agencies conducting immigration enforcement activities within the County. These operations often raise public concern and require a response from Department personnel that prioritizes safety, policy compliance, and public trust.

BACKGROUND

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department may receive calls for service involving suspected immigration enforcement activity, including incidents where federal agents may be operating in the community, near schools, businesses, or homes. These incidents can cause public confusion, fear, and unrest, especially when the agents are in unmarked vehicles, unidentifiable, or decline to show identification to community members.

In these instances, California Senate Bill 54, or the California Values Act which enacted and amended Government Code sections 7282 through 7282.5, and added sections 7284 through 7284.12 and County policy generally prohibit Department personnel from participating in civil immigration enforcement. Department personnel must remain neutral, avoid direct involvement in immigration enforcement, and ensure their actions are consistent with Department policy, the law, and the safety of the community.

DEPUTIES

When encountering or being dispatched to a situation possibly involving immigration enforcement, deputies should:

- Immediately notify a field supervisor, if a supervisor is not already assigned to the incident, of a

“possible federal enforcement action.”

- Attempt to identify the federal agents. If the individuals are acting in an enforcement capacity but are not clearly identifiable, deputies should:
 - Request identification or agency credentials from the on-scene federal supervisor or agent-in-charge. If there is no on-scene supervisor or agent-in-charge, request identification or agency credentials from the individuals acting in an enforcement capacity.
 - Record the encounter on body-worn camera, including identification efforts.
 - If the individuals decline to identify themselves, observe from a safe distance and document (such as in a log, incident report, and/or body worn camera):
 - Physical descriptions of individuals
 - Agency markings (if any)
 - Number of personnel involved
 - Vehicle descriptions and license plates

If it is determined that an incident involves federal immigration enforcement conducted by federal agents, the actions of Department members should be limited to those authorized under California law. Department personnel may act to maintain public order, ensure the safety of community members, and protect the lives and safety of federal law enforcement officers involved in the operation. This may include enforcing California criminal laws, when necessary, particularly those related to public safety and public order, such as acts of violence, unlawful assembly, or vandalism.

- Deputies should focus on crowd control and public safety, ensuring the situation does not escalate into violence;
- Remain neutral. Deputies should use de-escalation techniques to prevent conflicts between ICE agents and the public;
- Deputies should avoid physical involvement or assistance in the immigration arrest/enforcement action while maintaining neutrality unless the situation presents a clear and present officer-safety situation for the federal agents;
- The incident should be thoroughly documented, including any actions taken by deputies and federal agents, in an MDC log entry or an incident report if necessary. Deputies should also notify a field supervisor immediately;
- Deputies should clearly communicate to members of the public that the Department is not involved in immigration enforcement and is present to ensure public safety; and

- Use de-escalation techniques to calm tensions and avoid confrontations between federal agents and members of the public.

Documentation and Reporting

Deputies should:

- Complete the appropriate Incident report(s) when required under the following circumstances:
 - A community member alleges a crime (e.g. kidnapping or false imprisonment);
 - There is confirmed criminal activity;
 - There is damage to property related to the incident;
 - Ensure all reports are thorough, objective, and submitted in accordance with Department policy and documentation standards; and
 - Title all Body Worn Camera videos in Evidence.com as “Federal Immigration Enforcement Action.”
- Complete a detailed MDC log entry documenting:
 - The nature of the incident, including location, time, individuals involved and actions taken;
 - Any crowd control or de-escalation measures employed; and
 - Supervisor notification and response.

SUPERVISOR

To ensure proper oversight and compliance with Department and County policies involving federal immigration enforcement actions, supervisors should:

- Respond to calls for service involving:
 - Possible federal immigration enforcement, or;
 - Alleged crimes such as kidnapping or false imprisonment by individuals appearing to be federal agents.
- Ensure that attempts to verify the credentials of the on-scene federal agent(s) or supervising officer(s) have been made.
- Ensure that deputies adhere to California law and County and Department policies regarding federal enforcement while maintaining public safety.

- Notify the Watch Commander immediately and provide all relevant information, including:
 - Nature of the incident;
 - Identity of involved federal agents (if known); and
 - Actions taken by deputies.
- Immediately report to the Watch Commander any incidents involving:
 - Any federal immigration-related interaction with a federal agency/agents;
 - Large-scale public disturbances; or
 - Media attention.

WATCH COMMANDER

Upon notification of a federal immigration enforcement action or relevant incident, Watch Commanders should:

- Closely monitor the situation.
- Document the activity and all pertinent information in the Watch Commander Daily Log, including:
 - Community allegations of criminal activity;
 - Agent identification attempts; and
 - Department members' actions and policy compliance.
- Complete an after-action summary in a Chief's memo, per MPP 4-01/100.25 – Important Cases and incidents, noting:
 - Specific details of the incident; and
 - Any community issues or concerns.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

[SH-AD-757 Federal Enforcement Operations - Watch Commander Checklist](#)

FOSS Newsletters : 25-05 - Encounters Involving Possible Federal Immigration Enforcement Operations

[MPP 4-01/100.25 - Important Cases and Incidents](#)

[MPP 5-09/271.00 - Immigration Inquiries and Notification](#)

[MPP 3-01/140.00 Deputy Stops – Government Code Section 12525.5](#)

[Newsletter 23-06 AB 2773 \(2022\) – Stating and Documenting the Reason for Traffic Stops](#)

If you require further information, contact Field Operations Support Services at (323) 890-5411 or fossunit@lasd.org.

Revised: 7/11/2025

25-04 - Potential Scenarios Related to Immigration Operations

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

NEWSLETTER

Field Operations Support Services



VOLUME 25 NUMBER 04

DATE July 10, 2025

POTENTIAL SCENARIOS RELATED TO IMMIGRATION OPERATIONS

PURPOSE

This Newsletter is to remind Department personnel of existing policy regarding immigration operations and the importance of compliance under Senate Bill 54, or the California Values Act which enacted and amended Government Code sections 7282 through 7282.5, and added sections 7284 through 7284.12, along with County and Department policies. In addition, this Newsletter is aimed at providing potential scenarios that Department personnel may encounter along with potential responses, in order to provide clarity into California law.

Below are potential scenarios and discussion points followed by italicized responses which align with these mandates to ensure deputies comply with state law while maintaining public safety. This information is designed to help guide Department personnel practice real-world decision-making and give operational guidance. Supervisors are encouraged to use these scenarios with their personnel to prompt discussion and build understanding about California law and different scenarios personnel may encounter in the field.

SCENARIO #1: ICE Requests Backup for a Civil Immigration Arrest

While on patrol, deputies receive a radio call from ICE agents requesting backup at a local business where they are attempting to detain an individual for immigration violations under an administrative warrant (Form I-200).

Discussion Points / Responses

- How should deputies respond to the ICE request?

Deputies should decline the request for backup, as assisting in a civil immigration action is prohibited under SB-54.

- What steps should deputies take to ensure they are not assisting in a civil immigration action?

Deputies should verify the nature of the warrant. If it is an administrative warrant (Form I-200 or I-205), they must not assist with any detention or arrest.

- How should deputies document the encounter?

Deputies should document the interaction on their Mobile Digital Computer (MDC) or an incident report if necessary.

- What should deputies do if ICE insists on assistance?

If ICE insists on assistance, deputies should refer to County policy, and SB-54. Additionally, Deputies should notify a field supervisor.

SCENARIO #2: Contact with an Individual Who Has an ICE Warrant

Deputies conduct a routine traffic stop for a vehicle code violation. Upon running the driver's information, they discover an ICE administrative warrant (Form I-205) for removal proceedings.

Discussion Points / Responses

- What should the deputies do with the ICE warrant information?

Deputies should not detain or arrest the individual solely based on the ICE administrative warrant.

- Should the deputies detain the individual based on this administrative warrant? Why or why not?

No. Administrative warrants are not criminal judicial warrants and do not grant deputies the authority to detain.

- How should deputies ensure the stop remains compliant with SB-54?

The stop should remain focused on the original reason (e.g., traffic violation), and deputies should not inquire about immigration status.

- If ICE contacts the deputies and requests custody of the driver, how should they respond?

This is an administrative warrant. If ICE contacts deputies and requests custody of the driver, deputies must decline to participate and refer to SB-54 and County policy.

SCENARIO# 3: ICE Conducting an Operation Near a School

A local school principal calls 911, reporting that federal agents are near the campus conducting what appears to be an immigration enforcement operation. Parents and students are alarmed. Deputies arrive on scene and find ICE agents in unmarked vehicles.

Discussion Points / Responses

- What is the deputies' role in this situation?

Deputies' role is to ensure public safety and not to assist in the immigration enforcement operation.

- How should deputies balance public reassurance with remaining neutral in immigration enforcement?

Deputies should reassure the public without interfering in ICE's activities while maintaining neutrality in immigration enforcement.

- If ICE requests assistance in detaining an individual outside the school, how should deputies respond?

If ICE requests assistance in detaining an individual, deputies should decline, citing SB-54 and Department policy. Deputies should not intervene UNLESS there is a clear and present threat to officer safety. The level of assistance should be limited to restore officer safety.

- What steps should be taken to document the encounter?

Deputies should document the incident in a detailed log entry in their MDC and report any conflicts to a field supervisor.

SCENARIO# 4: ICE Agents at the Station Requesting Assistance

Two ICE agents arrive at the station, asking for assistance in locating a suspect with a final order of deportation. They provide deputies with an ICE detainer request and ask for recent contact information from department records.

Discussion Points / Responses

- How should deputies handle ICE's request for information?

Deputies should not provide assistance in locating the suspect or share department records unless required by law (a federal criminal warrant signed by a judge). ICE should be directed to official communication channels for public records. (Available on Department website, Inmate Information links, etc.)

- Under what circumstances, if any, can deputies share information with ICE?

Under SB-54, deputies can only share information that is already publicly available and cannot disclose non-public information related to immigration enforcement. Non-public information includes a person's home or work address and telephone numbers, and personal identifying information such as names and physical descriptions.

- What Department policies or legal statutes should deputies' reference in responding to the request?

Deputies should politely decline the request, citing SB-54 and County policy.

- How should deputies document this interaction?

The interaction should be documented in the MDC if a call is generated. If ICW Agents persist, a supervisor should be notified immediately, and the Watch Commander should document the incident in the daily log.

SCENARIO# 5: ICE Arrest Attempt Escalates into a Public Disturbance

Deputies on patrol observe ICE agents attempting to arrest an individual in a public area, but a crowd begins to gather, protesting the arrest. The situation escalates, and there is potential for violence. ICE agents request assistance in securing the scene.

Discussion Points / Responses

- What should deputies do to ensure public safety while not assisting in immigration enforcement?

Deputies should focus on crowd control and public safety, ensuring the situation does not escalate into violence.

- How should deputies de-escalate tensions between the public and ICE?

Remain neutral. Deputies should use de-escalation techniques to prevent conflicts between ICE agents and the public.

- What actions can deputies take to maintain neutrality while keeping the peace?

Deputies should avoid physical assistance in the immigration arrest while maintaining neutrality in the enforcement action UNLESS the situation presents a clear and present officer-safety situation for the ICE Agents.

- How should deputies document the incident, and who should be notified?

The incident should be thoroughly documented, including any actions taken, in an MDC log entry or an incident report if necessary. Deputies should also notify a field supervisor immediately.

SCENARIO #6 ICE Responds to Station Jail to Take Custody of a Person Being Held on a Civil Immigration Detainer

Two ICE agents arrive at a station and request to take custody of an individual being held on a civil immigration detainer.

Discussion Points / Responses

- How should station personnel respond to ICE's request?

If ICE requests assistance in taking custody of an individual being held on a civil immigration detainer, station personnel should decline, citing SB-54 and Department policy.

- What actions can station personnel take?

SB 54 prohibits detention solely based on a civil immigration detainer.

- How should station personnel document the incident, and who should be notified?

Station personnel should notify the watch commander and document the incident in the Watch Commander's Log.

Documentation and Reporting Procedures

All encounters related to ICE operations, public disturbances, or protest activity should be thoroughly documented to ensure accountability, transparency, and compliance with SB-54 and Department policy.

Deputies should

Complete an Incident Report if damage to any property or if any criminal activity exists and complete a detailed MDC log entry. All forms of documentation by deputy personnel should contain the following:

- Detail the nature of the incident, including location, time, and actions taken.
- Specify whether ICE requested assistance and how the department responded.
- Note any crowd control or de-escalation measures used.
- Document if any arrests were made and under what legal authority.
- Include Supervisor Notification

Field Sergeant Should

Any situation involving ICE interaction, large-scale public disturbances, or media attention should be immediately reported to the watch commander. Any conflicts or unusual circumstances should be escalated through the station chain of command up to the Division Chief.

Watch Commander Should

Provide details of any significant incident related to ICE interaction to Sheriff's Information Bureau (SIB) along with the respective Field Deputy from the BOS. Significant incidents may include any incident likely to attract media attention. Incidents such as large-scale protests, potential policy violations by sheriff's personnel, or incidents where force was used should be included in the notification.

CONCLUSION: Why Is This Important?

- **Policy Compliance:** Proper documentation ensures adherence to SB-54, the County and department policy, reducing liability and risk of misconduct claims.
- **Accountability & Transparency:** Maintaining clear records supports transparency with the public, media, and oversight bodies, reinforcing community trust.
- **Operational Consistency:** Standardized reporting helps ensure deputies follow established procedures and provides leadership with accurate information for decision-making.

- **Media & Public Perception Management:** By proactively documenting and reporting incidents, the department can provide timely, factual, and coordinated responses to media inquiries, preventing misinformation or misrepresentation of department actions.

REFERENCES

[The California Values Act - SB 54](#)

[BOS Supervisor Motion 07/15/2025](#)

[3-01/000.05 - Bias - Free Policing](#)

[5-09/271.00 - Immigration Inquiries and Notifications](#)

[18-06 - Immigration Policies, Protocols, and Procedures](#)

If you require further information, contact Field Operations Support Services at (323) 890-5411 or fossunit@lasd.org.

Revised: 7/10/2025



FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS WATCH COMMANDER CHECKLIST

California law and Board of Supervisors policy generally prohibit Department personnel from participating in civil or criminal federal immigration enforcement operations. (See [Gov't Code § 7284.6](#); [September 1, 2020, Board Motion](#)). Federal authorities, including ICE, accordingly, are required to fully staff their own immigration enforcement operations, not rely on Department personnel to assist, and instead should view the use of Department personnel as a resource of last resort for safety, protection and to preserve order.

Nonetheless, Department personnel may, pursuant to their duties under California law, act to preserve order and to protect the lives and safety of community members, and of federal law enforcement officers engaged in enforcement activities. This includes enforcing California criminal law should it become necessary, including laws related to public safety and public order (e.g., preventing and addressing acts of violence, unlawful assembly, and vandalism).

This checklist is to help ensure Department Personnel operate within the mandates of State and local law and fulfill the mission of the Department when assisting with federal law enforcement operations.

This checklist only applies to operations the Department becomes aware of that federal law enforcement officers have pre-planned.

This checklist does NOT apply to requests for emergency help from federal law enforcement. Department personnel will promptly respond if a federal law enforcement officer seems to be in danger and calls for help.

1. Criminal, Non-Immigration Felony Arrest Warrants or Probable Cause Arrests

- Document the nature of the warrant and the specific request in the watch commander's log. The Department is not to participate in the execution of federal immigration arrest warrants or probable cause arrests based on federal immigration violations (e.g., 8 U.S.C. § 1326). What Department personnel may do, however, is enforce state law, including laws related to preserving order and public safety, including safety for community members and federal law enforcement officers, such as by providing a security perimeter, or crowd/traffic control).
- Identify the lead federal agency (e.g., FBI, HSI, ICE, local task force) and their specific role.

- Identify the specific crime(s) that the lead federal agency is investigating or enforcing. Department personnel are only to participate in pre-planned operations if a **serious or violent felony** is involved.



FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS WATCH COMMANDER CHECKLIST

- Ask directly: ***'Is this operation in any way related to civil or criminal immigration enforcement?'***
 - Yes (Department personnel **may not participate** in immigration enforcement. What Department personnel may do, however, is enforce state law, including laws related to preserving order and public safety, including safety for community members and federal law enforcement officers, such as by providing a security perimeter, or crowd/traffic control).
 - No (LASD personnel **may participate** and otherwise offer support).
 - Receive written confirmation that federal authorities are not engaging in civil or criminal immigration enforcement as part of their operation. Receiving verbal confirmation on a recorded phone line or a body worn camera recording where both sides of the conversation can be heard is sufficient if written confirmation is not available. If applicable, attach written confirmation to this checklist.

2. Perimeter Support – Reminders

- A perimeter is a secure outer boundary established to prevent unauthorized entry into a target area and to ensure scene safety for all involved personnel and the public.



FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS WATCH COMMANDER CHECKLIST

- Instruct all Department personnel involved:
 - No entry or tactical involvement.
 - No investigating, questioning, detaining, or arresting suspects on federal criminal or civil immigration charges.
 - They are only providing perimeter security and enforcing State law relating to public safety and public order (e.g., preventing or addressing acts of violence, unlawful assembly, and vandalism).
- Department personnel are to be on scene for the least amount of time possible.

3. Consider Remote Staging

- Remote Staging** is positioning deputies near the target area but out of sight.
- This option may be appropriate if there is no immediate need for enforcement of State law related to public safety and public order.
- Ensure LASD personnel are staged closely enough to the target area to be promptly available to ensure public safety and order and to respond to requests for help, including from federal law enforcement officers and others facing safety threats.

4. Consider the Location of the Operation, Tactical Principles and Supervision

- Assess the location to determine if the pre-planned operation will take place in or near a sensitive location (e.g., near schools, parks, houses of worship) and staff accordingly.
- Remind involved Department personnel of the core tactical principles found in [MPP 3-10/150.00](#).
- A field sergeant shall be dispatched to the operation scene to oversee the involvement of all LASD personnel.

Continued



5. Public Perception Considerations

- Be mindful that the public may misinterpret the Department's role and erroneously believe that the Department's engagement with federal authorities means the Department is engaged in immigration enforcement. This is not the case, and all LASD personnel involved should be advised of this fact. The Department's mission is to enforce State law, including laws relating to public safety and public order.
- You may be called upon to prepare a short public-facing statement regarding the Department's role if there is community or media attention.
- You are to use existing reporting protocols before submitting any public-facing messages to City officials or your justice deputies.

6. Documentation & Accountability

- Document in detail all communications with the requesting agency.
- Watch Commander's Log:
 - Assigned Department personnel and unit numbers
 - Time Department personnel arrive on scene
 - Activities conducted
 - Time Department personnel depart the scene
- Complete an after-action summary in a Chief's memo, per [MPP section 4-01/100.25](#) – Important Cases and Incidents, noting:
 - The purpose of the operation
 - Any community issues or interactions