

## **Worcester Police FAQs on Immigration**

**Q: Can I be detained or deported by the Worcester Police Department because of my immigration status during a general police encounter, such as a motor vehicle stop, a call for service, or a request for medical aid?**

**A:** No, the Worcester Police Department (WPD) does not have the authority to enforce federal immigration laws. You will not be arrested or detained by WPD solely because of immigration status.

**Q: Can I be detained or deported by the Worcester Police Department because of my immigration status if I report a crime or am a witness to a crime?**

**A:** No, the Worcester Police Department does not have the authority to enforce federal immigration laws. We are committed to equal enforcement of the law and equal service to all members of the community, regardless of immigration status.

**Q: Can a Worcester Police officer stop or detain someone solely to check immigration status?**

**A:** No, Worcester Police officers cannot stop or detain someone to check immigration status.

**Q: Does the Worcester Police Department enforce federal immigration laws?**

**A:** No, local police, including the Worcester Police Department, do not have authority to enforce federal civil immigration laws. Local police may, however, cooperate with federal law enforcement on criminal matters unrelated to immigration status.

**Q: Does the Worcester Police Department detain people based solely on immigration status?**

**A:** No, Massachusetts case law (*Comm. v. Lunn*) prevents local police from detaining people based solely on immigration status.

**Q: Do federal immigration officers have enforcement authority in Worcester?**

**A:** Yes, federal immigration officers have full authority to enforce immigration laws anywhere in the country, including Worcester. The Worcester Police Department (WPD) does not have the authority to prohibit federal immigration officers from coming into our jurisdiction, nor are federal officers required to obtain WPD approval before taking action within the community.

**Q: If I am arrested by a Worcester Police officer, will they ask about my immigration status?**

**A:** No, the Worcester Police Department does not inquire about immigration status during the booking process. However, once fingerprinted, other law enforcement agencies could be electronically notified that you are in police custody and for what charges.

**Q: Will the Worcester Police Department accompany U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) Agents when they are acting under their authority within Worcester?**

**A:** Possibly. The Worcester Police Department does not participate in civil immigration enforcement or detain individuals solely based on I.C.E. detainers. However, Worcester Police officers may be present during federal enforcement actions to maintain public safety and protect bystanders.

**Q: Does the Worcester School District communicate student immigration status to the Worcester Police Department?**

**A:** No. Additionally, officers do not ask about immigration status during encounters with students.

**Q: How do I find out if someone I know has been detained by I.C.E.?**

**A:** There are a few ways to inquire about a specific I.C.E. detention:

1. Check the I.C.E. online Detainee Locator System: <https://locator.ice.gov/odls/#/search>
2. Contact the Boston I.C.E. Enforcement & Removal Operations (ERO) Field Office: [Boston.Outreach@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:Boston.Outreach@ice.dhs.gov) or 781-359-7500
3. Submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.)
4. Check with your local police department. Please keep in mind, federal law enforcement agencies may check in with and/or request assistance from local law enforcement as it relates to federal law enforcement action taking place in a specific municipality, however they are not legally required to. This means your local police department may or may not have knowledge of the results of any federal law enforcement activity within their jurisdiction.