

## Frequently asked Questions

**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.



**NOTE:** All forms can be downloaded on the United States Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) website at [uscis.gov](http://uscis.gov).

## 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.

*“This pamphlet was created to provide information regarding our immigration policy, and to reassure everyone in the community there is no need to fear contact with your Sheriff's Department.”*

*Our goal is to protect all people in Los Angeles County regardless of background or immigration status.”*

**Jim McDonnell, Sheriff**



Los Angeles County  
**Sheriff's Department**

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Los Angeles County  
**Sheriff's Department**

# IMMIGRATION INFORMATION GUIDE

## INFORMATION AND RESOURCES



**WWW.LASD.ORG**

## Message from Sheriff Jim McDonnell

As Sheriff of one of the most diverse counties in the nation, I want to assure our residents and immigrant communities the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is deeply committed to providing professional law enforcement services to everyone regardless of their immigration status.

Enforcement of immigration laws is the responsibility of the federal government. The men and women of the Sheriff's Department are focused on keeping our local communities safe, and will not detain or arrest any individual solely on suspicion of illegal presence in the United States.

***“This is our promise.  
It is our Department policy.  
Most importantly,  
it is the law.”***

Deputies are prohibited from asking for a victim's, a witness' or an offender's legal residency status. The trust we have earned from the community is critical in providing the highest level of service.



## 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 for 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' 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](http://www.lasd.org).

## 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.

**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.