

## 10 Things Immigrant Families Need To Know Post-Election<sup>1</sup>

**We do not yet know what (if anything) will change for immigrant communities.** For now, current immigration laws will stay the same until we hear otherwise. We do not know what changes will be made or how quickly changes will be made. Administrative changes, like eliminating DACA or prioritizing who to deport, can be enacted quickly. Changes to the law, like eliminating certain visa programs, require Congress to pass a law and will take more time and be more difficult.

- 1) **All people have rights in the United States. Educate yourself on your rights at home, in a car, and at work.** Talk to your children and include them in any planning that involves law enforcement coming to your home.
- 2) **U.S. citizenship cannot be taken away.** It is protected by the U.S. Constitution and can be eliminated only in special, rare situations.
- 3) **Consult with a trusted immigration lawyer or accredited representative.** It is important to understand your immigration legal options now. Be prepared: memorize the name and phone number of a trusted lawyer you can call if you are detained.
- 4) **Collect all important documents.**
  - a. Gather birth certificates and passports for all family members who might need to travel. Start this now. This process can take a very long time.
  - b. Don't forget to register kids with your home consulate whenever possible.
  - c. Do not buy/use/carry any false identity documents. These are crimes.
- 5) **Family ties will generally be respected under US law. If a parent is required to leave the United States, he or she will usually be allowed to take their children along.** Problems can happen when the parent does not have custody and/or permission from the other parent to travel with the child.
- 6) **Plan ahead for the worst case scenario that a loved one is detained.**
  - a. Collect your documents. Get your finances in order. Save up some money for emergencies. Open a bank account. Get an ATM card that could be used to withdraw money in your home country if necessary.
  - b. Prepare powers of attorney (legal documents providing someone with authority to act on your behalf) related to kids, property, and businesses.
- 7) **Avoid immigration/notario fraud.** Get services from a reputable organization or immigration attorney who has been vouched for by local community groups.
- 8) **Avoid negative interactions with law enforcement.** Remember that the most common way to end up interacting with law enforcement is by driving a car.
- 9) **Report hate incidents, scams, and fraud.**
- 10) **Be strong and get involved. Join others who are fighting for the basic human rights of immigrants!**

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from a Draft Fact Sheet from Friends of Farmworkers.