

Discernment and Planning Tools for those Facing Deportation

If you plan to report to ICE and could be detained and/or deported (page 1 of 2)

Lawyers and Accompaniment

- Have you spoken with an immigration lawyer about your plan?
- Are there any other remedies to your case?
 - If so, what do you need to bring with you to the next ICE appointment to show proof of eligibility for those remedies?
 - Will your lawyer attend your next report date with you to help you explain your remedies?
- Do you plan to fight deportation in other ways?
 - Have you let your community of support know about your situation?
 - Have you reached out to local advocacy/organizing groups?
 - Are you willing to tell your story or let others tell your story to the media or in a petition campaign?
 - Have you asked someone to accompany you to the appointment? Will others be outside waiting/demonstrating? Or in a safe space elsewhere waiting?

Family

- Keep family documentation in multiple safe locations: birth certificates, marriage certificates, custody papers, medical records, social security numbers, proof of academic and professional achievements, etc. Consider completing a family care plan. <http://pcusa.org/familycareplan>
- Will your family leave the country with you?
 - Do they have passports?
 - Are they eligible for any status or future status in the U.S?
 - If so, are you taking that documentation with you?
 - If so, will leaving right now alter that eligibility?
 - Have you talked this over with your immigration lawyer?
- Will your family remain in the U.S?
 - What is their source of income? Will that remain in place after your departure?
 - If you have young children, have you arranged for their custody and care?
 - Who is their community of support? Have those people been informed of your family's impending need?

Home/Personal Property

- Will you leave a household that will continue on in your absence?
 - If so, are those remaining household members on the mortgage/lease/utility bills? Are they legally and financially able to move/sell/pay in your absence? Do your household members need access to bank accounts to make this happen?
- If you are not leaving personal and real property in the hands of family/household members, have you arranged to move, transfer or liquidate before you leave? Or have you arranged for someone else to legally do this for you in your absence?

Discernment and Planning Tools for those Facing Deportation

If you plan to report to ICE and could be detained and/or deported (page 2 of 2)

Health

- Are you receiving medical care? Are you prepared to take medication, prescriptions, and medical records with you?
- Do you provide for the medical care of a household member? If they are not leaving with you, have you provided a plan for their continued care in your absence?

Personal

- How do you plan to communicate with your family/community/friends/lawyer during detention or after your departure? What do you need from them? What might they need from you? How can you continue to be a source of support for one another?

After considering these ramifications, is this still the right plan for you?

Discernment and Planning Tools for those Facing Deportation

If you plan to go into sanctuary (page 1 of 2)

Lawyers and Accompaniment

- Have you spoken with an immigration lawyer about your plan?
- Are there any other remedies to your case?
 - Will entering sanctuary alter your ability to gain those remedies?
- Will your lawyer remain your lawyer while you are in sanctuary?
 - Is your lawyer willing to become a part of an advocacy strategy team with local organizers and the congregation offering sanctuary?
 - How will you continue to pay your lawyer while in sanctuary?
- Should this be a public case?
 - Will the public know? Will the government know?
 - Are there security reasons to not go public? Are there community support reasons to go public?
 - Are you willing to tell your story or let others tell your story to the media or in a campaign?
- Are you prepared to live in a congregation building for a few years?
 - How will you handle 24-hour accompaniment?
 - How will you occupy your time and thoughts?
 - What do you need to sustain yourself in such a situation?
 - Do you feel the church community you may enter can both honor your autonomy and provide you with support?
 - Has the hosting congregation reviewed the Sanctuary Discernment guide (<http://www.pcusa.org/resource/sanctuary-discernment-guide-congregations/>) and the Welcome and the Law guide? (http://oga.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/resource_re_federal_laws.pdf)

Family

- Keep family documentation in multiple safe locations: birth certificates, marriage certificates, custody papers, medical records, social security numbers, proof of academic and professional achievements, etc. Consider completing a family care plan. <http://pcusa.org/familycareplan>
- Will your family live with you in the congregation building?
 - Do they need to work or go to school? Are they in statuses where they can safely leave while you remain during the day? Is the congregation offering sanctuary near their work or school?
 - Have the church members and volunteers gone through background checks? Are you and your family members willing to go through background checks?
 - Do any of the family members who would live with you in sanctuary receive regular medical care? Could they continue this in the church building or are they able to leave to continue this care?
- Will your family maintain your household?
 - What is their source of income? Will that remain in place while you are in sanctuary?

Discernment and Planning Tools for those Facing Deportation

If you plan to go into sanctuary (page 2 of 2)

- If you have young children, have you arranged for their custody and care?
- Who is their community of support? Have those people been informed of your family's impending need?

Home and Personal Property

- If there are remaining household members, are they on the mortgage/lease/utility bills? Are they legally and financially able to move/sell/pay in your absence? Do your household members need access to bank accounts to make this happen?
- If you are not leaving personal and real property in the hands of family/household members, have you arranged to move, transfer, liquidate or continue payments before you enter sanctuary? Have you arranged for someone else to legally do this for you while you are in sanctuary?

Health

- Are you receiving medical care? Are you able to bring your medication, prescriptions, and medical records with you? Are you able to continue medical care with a doctor who can see you at the church?
- Do you provide for the medical care of a household member? Have you provided a plan for their continued care in your absence?

Personal

- How do you plan to communicate with your family/community/friends/lawyer during your time in sanctuary? Will sanctuary restrict that access in any way? What do you need from them? What might they need from you? How can you continue to be a source of support for one another while your movement is restricted?
- What forms of fellowship/worship will you want to engage in with the church community?
- Will you be able to maintain your trade/professional experience and credentials while in sanctuary?

Raids

- While less likely than in other locations, Immigration and Customs Enforcement could raid the church building. How will you and the church and your family prepare for a raid?
- Do you and your host congregation know your rights during a raid?
(<https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/what-do-if-immigration-agents-ice-are-your-door>)
- Are you prepared to continue contact with your lawyer should you be detained?
- Is your family/community prepared to locate you if you are detained?
- Consider completing the parts of the Family Care Plan that pertain to you.
<http://pcusa.org/familycareplan>

After considering these ramifications, is this still the right plan for you?

Discernment and Planning Tools for those Facing Deportation

If you plan to go to Canada (page 1 of 2)

Lawyers and Accompaniment

- Have you spoken with a U.S. immigration lawyer about your plan?
- Are there any other remedies in the U.S. to your case?
 - If so, how will your eligibility for those remedies be affected by a departure to Canada?
 - Will your lawyer assist you in consulting with an immigration lawyer from Canada?
- Have you spoken to an immigration lawyer in Canada about your plan?
 - Do you have any immigration remedies in Canada?
 - What documentation do you need to take with you?
 - Is this a claim you should make through an official border crossing or after an irregular crossing?
 - Do you meet any of the exceptions to the Safe Third Country agreement between the U.S. and Canada? (<http://ccrweb.ca/en/refugee-claimants-entering-usa-practical-information>)
 - Do you have the finances to support yourself while you are waiting for a claim to process?
 - If there are no immigration remedies for you in Canada, have you spoke with someone about the life of an undocumented person in Canada and what the detention system is like in Canada?

Family

- Keep family documentation in multiple safe locations: birth certificates, marriage certificates, custody papers, medical records, social security numbers, proof of academic and professional achievements, etc. Consider completing a family care plan. <http://pcusa.org/familycareplan>
- Will your family leave the country with you?
 - Do they have passports?
 - Are they eligible for any status or future status in the U.S?
 - If so, are you taking that documentation with you?
 - If so, will leaving right now alter that eligibility?
 - Have you talked this over with your immigration lawyer?
 - Are they eligible for any status in Canada?
- Will your family remain in the U.S?
 - What is their source of income? Will that remain in place after your departure?
 - If you have young children, have you arranged for their custody and care?
 - Who is their community of support? Have those people been informed of your family's impending need?

Home/Personal Property

- Will you leave a household that will continue on in your absence?
 - If so, are those remaining household members on the mortgage/lease/utility bills? Are they legally and financially able to move/sell/pay in your absence? Do your household members need access to bank accounts to make this happen?

Discernment and Planning Tools for those Facing Deportation

If you plan to go to Canada (page 2 of 2)

- If you are not leaving personal and real property in the hands of family/household members, have you arranged to move, transfer or liquidate before you leave? Or have you arranged for someone else to legally do this for you in your absence?

Health

- Are you receiving medical care? Are you prepared to take medication, prescriptions, and medical records with you?
- Do you provide for the medical care of a household member? If they are not leaving with you, have you provided a plan for their continued care in your absence?

Personal

- How do you plan to communicate with your family/community/friends/lawyer while in Canada? What do you need from them? What might they need from you? How can you continue to be a source of support for one another?

After considering these ramifications, is this still the right plan for you?

Discernment and Planning Tools for those Facing Deportation

If you plan to miss a court date or go into hiding in the U.S. (page 1 of 2)

Lawyers and Accompaniment

- Have you spoken with an immigration lawyer about your plan?
- Are there any other remedies to your case?
 - If so, will going into hiding/missing a court date or an ICE report date alter your ability to obtain that remedy? Will/Can your lawyer appear for you in your absence?
 - Will your failure to appear in court or at the ICE office result in a raid? Are there people at your last known address who could be detained during a raid?
- Will your lawyer remain your lawyer while you are in hiding?
 - How will you continue to pay your lawyer while in hiding?
- Will you and your community advocate in your case while you are in hiding?
 - Will the public know? Will the government know?
 - Are there security reasons to not go public? Are there community support reasons to go public?
 - Are you willing to tell your story or let others tell your story to the media or in a campaign?
- Are you prepared to live in hiding for a few years?
 - What do you need to sustain yourself in such a situation?

Family

- Keep family documentation in multiple safe locations: birth certificates, marriage certificates, custody papers, medical records, social security numbers, proof of academic and professional achievements, etc. Consider completing a family care plan. <http://pcusa.org/familycareplan>
- Will your family live go into hiding with you?
 - Do they need to work or go to school?
 - Are they in the middle of an immigration application process? Will that continue or will it be abandoned?
- Will your family maintain your household?
 - What is their source of income? Will that remain in place while you are in sanctuary?
 - If you have young children, have you arranged for their custody and care?
 - Who is their community of support? Have those people been informed of your family's impending need?

Home and Personal Property

- If there are remaining household members, are they on the mortgage/lease/utility bills? Are they legally and financially able to move/sell/pay in your absence? Do your household members need access to bank accounts to make this happen?
- If you are not leaving personal and real property in the hands of family/household members, have you arranged to move, transfer, liquidate or continue payments before you leave? Have you arranged for someone else to legally do this for you while you are in hiding or will you be able to continue to manage this from where you will be?

Discernment and Planning Tools for those Facing Deportation

If you plan to go into hiding in the U.S. (page 2 of 2)

Health

- Are you receiving medical care? Are you able to bring your medication, prescriptions, and medical records with you? Are you able to continue medical care with a doctor who can see you in your new location?
- Do you provide for the medical care of a household member? Have you provided a plan for their continued care in your absence?

Personal

- How do you plan to communicate with your family/community/friends/lawyer during your time in hiding? What do you need from them? What might they need from you? How can you continue to be a source of support for one another while you are away?
- Will you have a community of support where you are going?
- Will you be able to maintain your trade/professional experience and credentials where you are going?

Raids/Detention

- Do you know your rights during a raid? (<https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/what-do-if-immigration-agents-ice-are-your-door>)
- Are you prepared to continue contact with your lawyer if you become detained?
- Have you prepared your family/community so they can locate you if you are detained?
- Consider completing the parts of the Family Care Plan that pertain to your situation. <http://pcusa.org/familycareplan>

After considering these ramifications, is this still the right plan for you?