
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) if U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Comes to Campus

Immigration Customs Enforcement Roles/Responsibilities – UH Faculty and Staff

This FAQ is not legal advice but guiding principles designed to ensure UH faculty and staff understand their rights and responsibilities when interacting with immigration enforcement officers while protecting the privacy and safety of our campus community. If you have further questions or concerns, contact the Office of General Counsel at 832-842-0949 or the University of Houston Police Department at 713-743-3333 for assistance.

1. If I work in a public access building, can I prohibit access to federal immigration officers in support of our undocumented community?

No. UH cannot prohibit federal immigration enforcement officers from coming on campus to enforce federal law. However, you should make immediate contact with the University of Houston Police Department at 713-743-3333 and ask for System Police Chief Ceaser Moore, Jr. or, if not available, System Assistant Police Chief Chandra Johnson or System Assistant Police Chief Ryan Erwin to indicate that an immigration enforcement officer is present on campus and they will help determine the appropriate next steps.

2. I am a faculty member who works in a restricted-access building. Am I obligated to provide access to federal immigration officers?

UH must provide federal immigration officers access to a restricted-access building if the officer(s) provide a valid judicial warrant.

- **If the immigration enforcement officer has a valid judicial warrant**, then the answer is **Yes**.
- **If the officer does not have a valid judicial warrant**, then the answer is **No**.

Step 1: Ask the officer for their name, identification number, and agency affiliation.

Step 2: Inform the officer that you are not obstructing their process but must consult the University police department. Immediately contact the University of Houston Police Department at 713-743-3333 and ask for System Police Chief Ceaser Moore, Jr., or, if not available, System Assistant Police Chief Chandra Johnson or System Assistant Police Chief Ryan Erwin. They will help determine the appropriate next steps.

3. If an immigration enforcement officer requests personal and personally identifiable information about a student, including class rosters, am I obligated to provide it?

No. As a UH employee, per federal privacy laws, you must maintain the confidentiality of personal and personally identifiable information, including student records.

- The University generally requires immigration enforcement officers to produce a valid subpoena authorizing the disclosure of such records.
- Federal officers typically have no greater access to University records than any member of the public unless they present a valid subpoena.



- Guidelines about the confidentiality of student records can be found [here](#).
If you are asked for student personal information by an individual who identified themselves as a federal immigration officer, regardless of whether they present a subpoena, inform the officer that you are not obstructing their process but must consult the University police department. Immediately contact the University of Houston Police Department at 713-743-3333 and ask for System Police Chief Ceaser Moore, Jr. or, if not available, System Assistant Police Chief Chandra Johnson or System Assistant Police Chief Ryan Erwin for further guidance.

4. If I am teaching in my classroom, am I obligated to allow immigration enforcement officers to enter?

They should have a warrant to do so. If an immigration enforcement officer appears with a warrant, then you should follow the instructions above in #2.

5. If I work in a public access building (Student Center, for example), can I prohibit access to federal immigration officers in support of our undocumented community?

No. UH cannot prohibit federal immigration enforcement officers from coming on campus to enforce federal law. However, you should immediately call 713-743-3333 and ask for System Police Chief Ceaser Moore, Jr. or, if not available, System Assistant Police Chief Chandra Johnson or System Assistant Police Chief Ryan Erwin to indicate that an immigration enforcement officer is present on campus and for further guidance.

6. I work in the residence halls. Am I obligated to provide access to the resident hall's floors or rooms by federal immigration officers?

It depends. The enforcement officer should have the appropriate warrant to do so. If they appear, please follow the steps below:

Step 1: Ask the officer for their name, identification number, and agency affiliation.

Step 2: Inform the officer that you are not obstructing their process but must consult the University police department. Immediately contact the University of Houston Police Department at 713-743-3333 and ask for System Police Chief Ceaser Moore, Jr., or, if not available, System Assistant Police Chief Chandra Johnson or System Assistant Police Chief Ryan Erwin. They will help determine the appropriate next steps.

7. Can a student who is a resident in a residence hall refuse to allow a federal immigration enforcement officer to enter their residence hall room?

A residential hall room is considered a limited access area and cannot be legally accessed by immigration enforcement officers without a valid judicial warrant or the occupant's voluntary consent.

Ask the officer for their name and agency affiliation; ask for a copy of any warrant or subpoena presented; inform the officer that you are not obstructing their process but need to consult the University Police Department. Immediately contact the University of Houston Police Department at 713-743-3333 and ask for System Police Chief Ceaser Moore, Jr., or, if not available, System Assistant Police Chief Chandra Johnson or System Assistant Police Chief Ryan Erwin. They will help determine the appropriate next steps.



8. I am a staff member (financial aid officer, resident hall director, human resource officer, for example). If an immigration enforcement officer requests personal and personally identifiable information about a student or employee, am I obligated to provide the requested information?

Not without a valid warrant or subpoena. The Family Education Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) and other privacy laws apply, and you cannot share the information without appropriate authorization. If you receive a request for personally identifiable information or documents, or a federal immigration enforcement officer gives you a warrant or subpoena seeking such records, before providing any information, you should confirm that you are authorized to provide access to the specified records or information.

Ask the officer for their name and agency affiliation; ask for a copy of any warrant or subpoena presented; inform the office that you are not obstructing their process but need to consult the University Policy Department. Immediately contact the University of Houston Police Department at 713-743-3333 and ask for System Police Chief Ceaser Moore, Jr., or, if not available, System Assistant Police Chief Chandra Johnson or System Assistant Police Chief Ryan Erwin. They will help determine the appropriate next steps.

9. Where can students find resources that can answer other questions they might have or connect them with services?

Links to a wide range of information and resources can be found [here](#).