

HELP FOR IMMIGRANTS ILLEGALLY DETAINED:

RESOURCE PACKET ON GETTING A BOND HEARING FOR DETAINED NONCITIZENS WHO ENTERED WITHOUT IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS

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Introduction

The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan (ACLU) and Michigan Immigrant Rights Center (MIRC) have launched a project to help people being detained by ICE who do not have legal representation. **This packet is for detained people who entered the United States without immigration documents and who do not have a final order of removal.**

Under a court ruling in the case *Lopez-Campos v. Raycraft*, many noncitizens detained in Michigan are entitled to a bond hearing, which provides an opportunity for release from detention during immigration proceedings. The court held that ICE's policy of denying bond hearings to people who entered without documents is unlawful. You may be eligible for a bond hearing under this ruling.

People who may be eligible for a bond hearing under this decision should request a bond hearing from the immigration court as soon as possible.

This packet explains how to request and prepare for a bond hearing.

NOTE: In some situations, you may also consider filing a separate habeas corpus petition in federal court (for example, if you are not provided a bond hearing or are at risk of being transferred). This packet does not include habeas instructions. A separate habeas packet is available for those situations.

WHAT IS IN THIS PACKET

1. Background on ICE's policy of denying bond and the court decision in *Lopez-Campos v. Raycraft*.
2. Information about who can use this bond packet.
3. Instructions on how to request a bond hearing.
4. Instructions on how to prepare for a bond hearing.

Disclaimer

The legal issues covered in these materials are complex and may apply differently to each person. This information is not legal advice and is not a substitute for advice from a qualified attorney.

BACKGROUND

In July 2025, ICE announced a new policy affecting noncitizens who were detained after allegedly entering the United States without inspection by an immigration officer, no matter how long they had been living in the U.S. Under that new policy, those people were no longer eligible for release from detention on bond (money that noncitizens pay to the court as a guarantee that they will come to all their future court hearings). This was a major change. Before July 2025, noncitizens detained by ICE were regularly provided bond hearings and released on bond; after paying bond, they would be released if they appeared for their hearings and did not violate any conditions of their release.

Many people challenged the new policy in court. In hundreds of cases, judges ruled that the new policy was illegal and unconstitutional. But ICE continued detaining people without the possibility of being released on bond.

On May 11, 2026, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals agreed that the new policy is illegal and unconstitutional. That decision, called *Lopez-Campos v. Raycraft*, applies to all people detained in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. (This packet is specifically for people in Michigan, but the materials may be adapted for use in the other three states.) The ruling affects many noncitizens who entered without inspection by an immigration officer. It does **not** apply to you if you have a final order of removal, are in “expedited removal,” or have significant criminal history.

If you have been detained by ICE on charges of entering the country unlawfully and you are in regular removal proceedings, you may use the resources in this packet to request a bond hearing.

WHO CAN USE THIS BOND PACKET

To use this packet, please check that the following criteria apply to you:

- **You are currently detained in one of the following facilities overseen by the ICE Detroit Field Office:**
 - Calhoun County Correctional Center
 - Chippewa County Correctional Center
 - Monroe County Jail

- North Lake Processing Center
 - St. Clair County Jail
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- **You were arrested on a Form I-200 warrant and/or were issued a Notice to Appear** saying that you entered the United States without being admitted or paroled and are charged under § 212(a)(6)(A)(i).
 - **You are in ongoing removal proceedings** (not expedited removal proceedings), and you do not have a final order of removal (this includes cases still in immigration court or cases on appeal to the Board of Immigration Appeals).
 - **You have not been given a bond hearing**, or you were denied release on bond or conditional parole because ICE or the immigration judge said you were subject to mandatory detention.
 - **You lived in the United States for at least two years** before being taken into immigration custody.
 - **You have not been convicted of, arrested for, charged with, or admitted to disqualifying crimes.** The law about which crimes result in mandatory detention is complicated. If you have criminal history, you should talk to an attorney about how that affects your eligibility for bond. Generally, if you entered without documents, you cannot get a bond hearing if you have:
 - Certain serious crimes, including crimes resulting in death or serious injury
 - Drug offenses (including possession, except for a single possession of less than 30 grams of marijuana)
 - Crimes involving shoplifting, theft, burglary, or larceny
 - Firearms offenses
 - **You are eligible for some form of relief** (e.g. asylum, withholding of removal, cancellation of removal) in immigration court.
 - You may also use this packet if you have been **scheduled for a bond hearing** following a habeas grant.

HOW TO REQUEST A BOND HEARING

- You may ask the immigration court for a bond hearing **as soon as possible** – even if a hearing was denied before or ICE previously said you were in “mandatory detention.” (A denial of a bond hearing is different from a denial of bond at a bond hearing).
- People without lawyers can still request a hearing by writing to the immigration court.
- You may request a bond hearing at your next immigration court hearing, or you can submit a “custody redetermination” request to the immigration court at any time.
- A request for custody redetermination must include a cover page with the following information (**see next page for template letter request**):
 - Title: Request for Custody Redetermination
 - Your full name
 - Your A-Number (your unique “alien registration number,” which starts with “A” and is followed by 7-9 numbers)
- Work with your family, friends, or sponsor to prepare a packet of evidence for the judge showing you are not a danger or flight risk.
- It is best to include this packet with your request because bond hearings may be scheduled very quickly.
- Your detention facility can provide envelopes and stamps for free.
- Mail it to:

Detroit Immigration Court
Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building
477 Michigan Ave #440
Detroit, MI 48226
- For more information on immigration bonds, see:
<https://www.immigrantjusticelab.org/guides/a-immigration-bonds>

Full Name: _____

A-Number: _____

Detention Center: _____

To: Detroit Immigration Court
Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building
477 Michigan Ave #440
Detroit, MI 48226

REQUEST FOR CUSTODY REDETERMINATION

I am currently detained in ICE custody, and I am requesting a custody redetermination (bond hearing). I ask the Immigration Judge to review my custody and consider releasing me on bond.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature: _____

Date: _____

HOW TO PREPARE FOR A BOND HEARING

After you submit your Request for Custody Redetermination, the immigration court may schedule a bond hearing. Bond hearings are often scheduled quickly, so it is important to begin preparing right away.

To be released on bond, you must show the judge that you are not a person who is dangerous to other people or property and that you will attend all your future court hearings. There are many different types of documents that you can use to support your request for bond:

- **Support letters** from your family, friends, employers, and religious leaders. These letters should:
 - Be written in English (or translated into English).
 - Begin with “Dear Honorable Judge.”
 - State your full name and alien registration number (A#).
 - Include the writer’s address and immigration status, with proof of their U.S. citizenship or immigration status.
 - Explain why you are a good person and why you can be trusted to return to the immigration court for all future court hearings.
- **Letter from your sponsor:**
 - Be written in English (or translated into English).
 - Begin with “Dear Honorable Judge.”
 - State your full name and A#.
 - Include the writer’s address and immigration status, with proof of their U.S. citizenship or immigration status.
 - Explain how long they have known you and why you can be trusted to return to court and stay out of trouble.
 - Explain where you will live, how they will support you, and include evidence such as tax returns.
- **Documents showing family ties**, such as birth certificates, green cards, or naturalization certificates of U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident family members.
- **Marriage certificate** if your spouse is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident.
- **Proof of address**, such as lease, mortgage, or utility bill.

- **Evidence of immigration relief**, such as receipt notices, applications, or work authorization.
- **Employment records**, such as pay stubs or letters from employers.
- **Proof of tax filing.**
- **School or educational records**, such as transcripts, diplomas, or GED certificates.
- **Documentation of counseling or rehabilitation** related to past issues.
- **Community involvement**, such as volunteer certificates or awards.
- **Photos** with family or community members who have lawful status.
- **Medical documentation** for you or family members you help care for.
- **Evidence of a strong immigration case**, such as applications or drafts of applications with supporting documents.
- **Any other evidence** showing your ties to the U.S. and good character.

You may also ask supporters with legal U.S. immigration status to be available to testify at your bond hearing. If they want to speak by telephone, you must write the judge to request permission and explain who they are and what they would say. Note that testimony from family or friends is rare, and some judges will not allow remote testimony without an attorney.

During the hearing, you must explain why you are not a danger to the community and can be trusted to appear for future hearings. You may want to tell the judge:

- Your ties to the community
- Whether you have family members in the community
- Where you will live if released
- Your employment history
- Whether you have always reported to ICE in the past

Your statements should be clear, concise, and respectful. The judge may ask you questions. Do not argue with the judge.

The minimum amount for a bond is \$1,500, but bond is rarely set that low.

If the judge grants bond, it can be paid:

- Online at <https://cebonds.ice.gov/>

- In person at the federal immigration building (located at 985 Michigan Ave, Detroit, MI 48226)
- Through an immigration bond agency (fees and collateral required)

If bond is granted and paid, you can be released even if ICE reserves appeal, unless ICE obtains an automatic stay (rare).

It is very important to update your address with the immigration court and the Department of Homeland Security. You should also check your case status regularly at <https://acis.eoir.justice.gov/en/> because hearing dates can change quickly.

See the example packet for how to support your request for bond.