

Informational Brief for Moab: ICE and Immigration

Why This Matters:

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has significantly escalated its operations across the United States, including in rural and tourist communities like ours. ICE's baseline annual budget is around **\$10 billion**, but under the July 4th "One Big Beautiful Bill," it will receive approximately **\$75 billion over the next four years**, about **\$15–\$19 billion annually**, including **\$45 billion earmarked for detention infrastructure**. That places ICE as one of the largest enforcement agencies in the country, with a budget comparable to the annual military spending of mid-sized nations. These resources have enabled stepped-up enforcement operations in multiple regions, including large-scale operations in Southern California in June-July 2025.

Federal law is clear:

- ICE **can enter** public areas **without a warrant**.
- ICE **cannot enter** private areas without a **judicial warrant** signed by a judge.
- ICE may try to present **administrative warrants** (Forms I-200 or I-205), but these **do not grant legal access** to private spaces.

If ICE is present:

- You are within your rights to **deny access** to private areas unless shown a valid judicial warrant.
- You may **call an attorney** to assist, and **local police** for immediate safety concerns.
- You retain all your normal rights, including the **right to remain silent**, and the **right to refuse to answer questions about immigration/residency status**.
- You may **take photographs, record, and document** the entire interaction as long as it does not obstruct the official duties of the agent.

How to respond:

- Ask to **see the warrant**.
- Take a photo of the warrant or note the details. Take your time.
- Confirm that it includes the necessary components (see next page).
- For a valid judicial warrant, escort them to the named location, let them search, then escort them out.
- If it's not a judicial warrant: *"This is not valid for private access. I need you to leave. If you do not comply, we will be calling the police."*
- Document the interaction, with photos/videos during and write down specific notes after.

Public vs. Private Spaces

- **Public areas:** dining room, storefront, reception, sidewalks, library, church during public worship — ICE may enter without a warrant. The owner or staff **may ask them to leave**, or close off public access.
- **Private areas:** kitchens, back offices, storage rooms, employee-only areas, rental unit, church sacristy, car, house — Entry requires judicial warrant or your permission.

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De-Escalation and Safety Guidance

Always remain calm and follow these principles:

- Speak clearly and calmly. Avoid confrontation. Do not resist physically or elevate your voice.
- Ask questions, slow it down: "Who are you here to see?" "Can I see a warrant signed by a judge?"
- Keep your body language non-threatening and your hands visible.
- Reiterate clearly and calmly: *"If you do not have a judicial warrant, you need to leave. If you refuse, we will contact our attorney and if needed for safety, the police."*

Why This Is Effective

Local resistance—when lawful, nonviolent, and widely practiced—can shift public narratives and political will. Just as past business communities have stood up against workplace raids, your decision to protect your employees and community members under the law makes a difference.

You can post signs in public windows and private areas reminding staff and agents of these rights. Sample posters and guidance are included in this packet. Posting these signs visibly bolsters the strength of community pushback against enforcement overreach.

Your Role in the Community

Everyone plays a different role in the community, and each of these roles adds to the collective voice that guides our public policies. For any cause, your support or resistance to that cause adds to the general public pressure for or against the policy. As some brief examples:

- **If you are a business owner**, placing a sign in support of immigrants visibly demonstrates your support for affected communities, and reminds your customers of that support.
- **If you are a student or an alumni**, letting your university know that you value their support for immigrant communities enables them to push back against ICE enforcement overreach.
- **If you are a faith leader or congregant**, hosting "know your rights" workshops or welcoming immigrant families into community gatherings shows moral and practical solidarity.
- **If you work in the tourism industry** (guides, outfitters, service staff), supporting immigrant workers publicly helps ensure the lifeblood of our local economy feels safe.
- **If you are part of a local club or civic group**, inviting immigrant families to participate in community events makes it harder for ICE to isolate and target individuals.
- **If you are a landlord or housing provider**, you can reassure tenants that you will not allow warrantless entry into private areas of your property, and can share information about their rights.
- **If you are a local resident or neighbor**, simply showing up to community events, vigils, or rallies, and amplifying immigrant voices in public meetings, contributes to the visible, unified pushback.
- **If you are an educator**, making sure students and families know their rights, and offering school space for informational meetings, helps families feel safe and connected.

The list goes on, and every bit of engagement adds up as it enables others around to also engage.

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How to Identify a Judicial Warrant vs. an ICE Administrative Warrant

Judicial Warrant (Valid for Entry to Private Areas)

- **Signed by:** A federal or state judge
- **Issued by:** A court (e.g., U.S. District Court)
- **Common Form:** "Search and Seizure Warrant"
- **Key Information to Check:**
 - **Who** is being searched for (name or clear description)
 - **Where** agents are allowed to search (specific rooms or areas, such as a business address and interior rooms)
 - **When** the search can occur (valid date and often time-of-day limitations)
 - **Court heading and seal**
 - **Judicial Signature:** Must be signed by a judge (not an ICE officer)
- **Appearance:** Usually typed, with formal case heading, court seal or stamp, and multi-page detail

NOTE: A valid judicial warrant will specify WHO, WHERE, and WHEN. It must include a judge's signature and a court header. Without these, it is not valid for entry into non-public business areas.

ICE Administrative Warrant (Not Valid for Entry to Private Areas)

- **Signed by:** ICE or DHS agent (not a judge)
- **Issued by:** Department of Homeland Security (not a court)
- **Common Forms:**
 - **Form I-200:** Warrant for Arrest of Alien
 - **Form I-205:** Warrant of Removal/Deportation
- **Key Characteristics:**
 - Lacks judicial signature
 - No time/place restrictions
 - Not accompanied by a search scope or judge's approval
 - No court seal or official court heading
- **Appearance:** Typically short (1–2 pages), on ICE/DHS letterhead, lacking any judge's name or court stamp

NOTE: These forms are civil arrest documents. They do NOT authorize access to private or non-public areas without your consent.

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Comparison Table and Examples

Feature	Judicial Warrant	Administrative Warrant
Issued by:	Federal or State Court	ICE/DHS (not a court)
Signed by:	Judge or Magistrate	ICE or DHC Officer
Authorizes Entry To:	Private areas with conditions	Public areas only
Includes Information About:	Who, Where, When	Typically just a name
Court Seal & Header	Yes	No
Example:	<div><p>AO 442 (Rev. 11/11) Arrest Warrant</p><p>UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT</p><p>for the</p><p>United States of America</p><p>v.</p><p>Defendant</p><p>Case No.</p><p>ARREST WARRANT</p><p>To: Any authorized law enforcement officer</p><p>YOU ARE COMMANDED to arrest and bring before a United States magistrate judge without unnecessary delay (name of person to be arrested) who is accused of an offense or violation based on the following document filed with the court:</p><p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indictment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Superseding Indictment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Superseding Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complaint</p><p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probation Violation Petition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supervised Release Violation Petition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Violation Notice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of the Court</p><p>This offense is briefly described as follows:</p><p>Date: _____ Issuing officer's signature _____</p><p>City and state: _____ Printed name and title _____</p><p>Return</p><p>This warrant was received on (date) _____, and the person was arrested on (date) _____ at (city and state) _____.</p><p>Date: _____ Arresting officer's signature _____</p><p>Printed name and title _____</p></div>	<div><p>U.S. Department of Justice Immigration and Naturalization Service</p><p>Warrant of Removal/Deportation</p><p>File No: _____ Date: _____</p><p>To any officer of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service:</p><p>(If of state of entry)</p><p>who entered the United States at _____ (Place of entry) ON _____ (Date of entry)</p><p>is subject to removal/deportation from the United States, based upon a final order by:</p><p><input type="checkbox"/> an Immigration Judge in exclusion, deportation, or removal proceedings <input type="checkbox"/> a district director or a district director's designated official <input type="checkbox"/> the Board of Immigration Appeals <input type="checkbox"/> a United States District or Magistrate Court Judge</p><p>and pursuant to the following provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act: Section 241(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (Act), as amended.</p><p>I, the undersigned officer of the United States, by virtue of the power and authority vested in the Attorney General under the laws of the United States and by his or her direction, command you to take into custody and remove from the United States the above-named alien, pursuant to law, at the expense of the appropriation. "Salaries and Expenses Immigration and Naturalization Service 2002," including the expense of an adjutant if necessary.</p><p>(Signature of INS Official) _____ (Signature of INS Official) _____ (Name and Office Location) _____</p><p>Form I-207 (Rev. 4-1-99)</p></div>

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