

Immigration Enforcement Resource for Employees

We want to help you feel informed and empowered should any questions come up regarding immigration and our stance as a County. Below are a few of the FAQ's that pertain to immigration status and access to our programs and services. You can find more FAQ's [here](#).

1. Can undocumented residents access County services?

Yes. Arlington County **does not** require any resident to provide proof of legal presence in order to access nearly all County government services, including but not limited to:

- Police, fire and emergency medical services
- All Parks & Recreation facilities and programs
- Libraries
- Aging and disability services
- Child welfare and behavioral health services
- Emergency financial assistance and shelter
- Employment services
- Mental health and substance abuse services
- Health clinics for services such as immunization, maternity, family planning, dental, treatment for STDs, among others

2. What happens if the police or federal agents asks Arlington County for information about undocumented residents?

If a federal immigration law enforcement official seeks access to County records and doesn't have a warrant or subpoena, County employees should inform the agent that County records, generally, do not contain any information about the citizenship or immigration status of residents receiving County services or participating in County programs. Because of the sensitivity of information about residents, especially information that is prohibited by law from being released, staff is not authorized to decide what information can and cannot be shared. The agent should be told that any inquiries shall be made to the County Manager's Office, which will respond in consultation with the County Attorney.

3. What should I do if I am approached by a federal immigration law enforcement official at a County facility?

County employees shall abide by all federal, state and local laws at all times. Should a federal immigration law enforcement official visit a County facility seeking access to individuals or records, County employees shall adhere to the following procedures:

1. Ask the official to wait until the supervisor or other person in charge at the facility arrives,

2. Ask to see the official's credentials
3. Ask the official what the purpose of the visit is and whether they have a warrant or subpoena and, if so, ask to see it, copy it, and immediately send it to the ACPD and the County Attorney
4. If the official seeks records, you should inform the official that County records generally do not contain any information about the immigration or citizenship status of residents receiving County services or participating in County programs. Because of the sensitivity of information about residents, especially information that is prohibited by law from being release, staff is not authorized to make determination about what information can and cannot be shared. The agent should be told that any inquiries should be made to the County Manager's Office who will respond in consultation with the County Attorney.
5. If the official seeks access to individuals at the facility, ask the official if they could conduct their activities outside the facility. If the official declines to do so, inform the official that you are required to inform your Supervisor, Department Director and the ACPD and to request ACPD assistance to be on site during any enforcement action
6. Request the official to refrain from taking any action until an ACPD officer arrives on site
7. Contact your Supervisor and Department Director
8. Contact ACPD at the non-emergency number: 703-558-2222
9. If the official does not have a warrant or subpoena, the official may access portions of the facility open to the general public but not such portions as administrative offices, conference rooms, class rooms and the like. In the event the official's presence interferes with activities at the facility or becomes disruptive, the official should be asked to leave the facility.

4. Are there any programs that undocumented residents are not able to receive from Arlington County?

With few exceptions, undocumented persons are not eligible for federal and state funded public assistance programs administered by Arlington County. Consistent with federal law, Arlington County abides by all eligibility requirements and restrictions. The following programs and services DO require recipients to provide proof of legal presence and are not available to undocumented residents. Households that have both documented and undocumented residents may receive pro-rated benefits for these programs:

- Housing grants and housing choice voucher program
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or Food Stamps)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- Refugee assistance payments
- Department of Labor funded employment training
- Child care subsidies
- Federal Foster Care program