

Immigration and Local Law Enforcement

“Nothing has changed in the way we interact with our immigrant community,” said Arlington Police Chief Jay Farr. “It is not the role of the Arlington County Police Department to enforce federal immigration law. We want to make sure that all people — regardless of their country of origin — continue to report crimes and do not fear interacting with Arlington County police officers.”

Arlington County Remains a Welcoming Community

- Arlington remains a community that welcomes and values all.
- Arlington believes creating a culture of fear and distrust of law enforcement makes a community less safe.
 - Arlington County Police work with the community to maintain strong relationships vital to public safety.
- An individual’s right to file a police report, participate in police-community activities, or otherwise benefit from police services is not contingent upon citizenship or immigration status.
- Arlington County Police do not participate in the Federal Government’s 287 (g) Program.

Law Enforcement Policies and Procedures

Arlington County...

- **Has not changed** law enforcement policy or procedure related to immigration.
- Complies with all federal and state laws related to immigration. It is not the role of Arlington County to enforce federal immigration laws.
- **Does not and will not** perform proactive immigration status checks on residents or visitors.
- Has not and **will not monitor, detain, interview or investigate an individual solely for the purpose of determining their immigration status.**
- **Serves all people**, regardless of citizenship or immigration status.

Enforcement of Federal Immigration Laws

- Enforcement of federal immigration law is the responsibility of the federal government.
- Under state law, Arlington is required to:
 - Collect fingerprints of individuals **arrested** and booked, and
 - Electronically submit these to Virginia State Police so they can be checked against the state criminal record database and federal databases including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
- If there is a positive fingerprint match in the DHS database, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is electronically alerted and can undertake a more thorough investigation.
- Arlington Police will cooperate to the fullest extent with any law enforcement agency, including ICE, requesting assistance with executing a warrant in Arlington County.
 - The purpose of Arlington Police involvement is to maintain public safety.

Additional Information

For additional information resources, please visit our website at <https://topics.arlingtonva.us/resources-immigrants/>.

If you are in need of police services, dial 703-558-2222 in a non-emergency and dial 911 in an emergency.

Have concerns?

The Arlington County Police Department investigates complaints thoroughly. If you’re concerned a police action is inappropriate or violates the law, please call 703-228-4076.