



Executive Orders and Impact on Current Immigration Policies

As of February 2, 2017, the Administration has announced three Executive Orders that significantly impact immigrants and refugees. The border security order includes plans to build a wall and detention centers, hire additional enforcement officers, and remove more people more quickly. The interior enforcement order includes plans to arrest and detain more people, hire more immigration enforcement officers, get help from state and local enforcement agencies, and punish localities that don't cooperate with immigration enforcement. Finally, the order to ban entry includes temporary bans on nationals from seven Muslim-majority countries and refugees from around the world; and, an indefinite ban on Syrian refugees. More specifics on these orders are below.

January 25 Executive Order:

"Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements"

- Construction of a physical wall on the United States-Mexico border;
- Calls for an increase in the number of detention facilities near the Mexico border through construction and contracting (i.e. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) managing privately-owned detention facilities);
- Calls for detaining all immigrants violating immigration law at the border, or in other words, termination of "catch and release";
- Expedited removal:
 - The order directs DHS to expand "expedited removal" to the maximum extent allowed by law. This means that DHS can give deportation orders without a hearing with an immigration judge to anyone who entered the US unlawfully, and who cannot prove to DHS that they have been living here for at least two years.

January 25 Executive Order:

"Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States"

- Calls out "Sanctuary Jurisdictions" for willfully violating Federal law;
- Jurisdictions that willfully refuse to comply with federal immigration orders will not be eligible to receive Federal grants, except as deemed necessary for law enforcement purposes by the Attorney General;
- Expands enforcement priorities to include all removable (i.e. undocumented) immigrants in the following groups:
 - Anyone who has been convicted of, charged with, or "have committed acts that constitute a chargeable criminal offense";
 - Those who have engaged in fraud or willful misrepresentation in connection with any official or government matter;
 - Those who "have abused any program related to receipt of public benefits";
 - Those who are subject to a final order of removal;

- Those who an immigration officer believes to be a risk to public safety or national security.
- Empowers state and local law enforcement agencies to perform the functions of an immigration officer in the interior of the United States;
- Calls for the hiring of 10,000 more immigration officers;
- Reinstates Secure Communities
 - Secure Communities gives local and state law enforcement the ability to act as immigration officers

January 27 Executive Order

“Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorists Entry Into The United States”

- Suspends the entry of all “immigrants and nonimmigrants” from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, and Syria for 90 days. The Secretary of Homeland Security, John Kelly, has stated that the entry of lawful permanent residents is in the national interest and they will be given a stronger consideration for entry into the country. More countries may be added to this list.
- Suspends the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program for 120 days, suspends Syrian refugee resettlement to the U.S. indefinitely, reduces refugee admissions for 2017 by over a half to 50,000, and directs DHS to prioritize refugee claims based on religious persecution on a case-by-case basis after the 120-day suspension.

If you have questions, seek legal help from authorized immigration attorneys and Department of Justice accredited representatives.

Report immigration fraud:

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services:

<https://www.uscis.gov/avoid-scams/report-immigration-scams>

Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs:

(800) 593-8222

Want to know if you eligible for current immigration relief?

Free Immigration Eligibility Screenings at Advancing Justice-Los Angeles

Contact us: immrelief@advancingjustice-la.org

Chinese: (800) 520-2356

Khmer: (800) 867-3126

Korean: (800) 867-3640

Tagalog: (855) 300-2552

Thai: (800) 914-9583

Vietnamese: (800) 267-7395

English/Other: (888) 349-9695