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CHATHAM POLICE FAQ'S ON IMMIGRATION

- Q: Can I be detained or deported by the Chatham Police department during a general police encounter, such as a motor vehicle stop, a call for service or a request for medical aid, because of my immigration status?**
- A: NO.** The Chatham Police Department does not have the authority to enforce federal immigration laws. You will not be arrested, detained by Chatham PD solely because of your immigration status.
- Q: Can I be detained or deported by the Chatham Police Department if I report a crime, or am witness to a crime, because of my immigration status?**
- A: NO.** The Chatham Police Department does not have authority to enforce federal immigration laws. We are committed to equal enforcement of the law and equal service to all members of our community, regardless of immigration status.
- Q: Can a Chatham Police officer stop or detain someone solely to check immigration status?**
- A: NO.** Chatham Police officers cannot stop or detain someone solely to check immigration status.
- Q: Does Chatham Police enforce federal immigration laws?**
- A: NO.** Local police, including Chatham Police, do not have the authority to enforce federal civil immigration laws. Local police may, however, cooperate with federal law enforcement on criminal matters unrelated to immigration status.
- Q: Does Chatham PD detain people based solely on immigration status?**
- A: NO.** Massachusetts case law, (Comm v. Lunn), prevents local police from detaining people based solely on immigration status.
- Q: Do federal immigration officers have enforcement authority in Chatham?**
- A: YES.** Federal immigration officers have full authority to enforce immigration laws anywhere in the country, including Chatham. The Chatham Police Department does not have the authority to prohibit federal immigration officers from coming into our jurisdiction, nor are federal immigration officers required to obtain our approval before acting within our community.

Q: If arrested by a Chatham Police officer, will they ask about my immigration status?

A: NO. The Chatham Police does not inquire about immigration status during a booking process, however, once fingerprinted, other law enforcement agencies could be electronically notified that you are in police custody, and for what charges.

Q: Might the Chatham Police department accompany I.C.E. Agents when they are acting under their authority within the Town of Chatham?

A: YES, it is possible. Chatham Police officers may accompany or assist I.C.E. Agents to maintain public safety and protect bystanders during federal enforcement actions. However, CPD does not participate in civil immigration enforcement or detain individuals solely based on I.C.E. detainers. The Chatham Police department does not have to cooperate with federal I.C.E. Agents, however, CPD officers cannot interfere with I.C.E. Agents performing their duties.

Q: Does the Monomoy regional School District communicate student immigration status to the Chatham Police Department?

A: NO. Nor is this asked about during police/student encounters.

Q: How do I find out if someone I know has been detained by I.C.E.?

A: There are a few ways to inquire into specific I.C.E. detention:

1. Check the I.C.E. online detainee Locator System: <https://locator.ice.gov/odls/#/search>
2. Contact the Boston ICE Enforcement & Removal Operations (ERO) Field Office: Boston.outreach@ice.dhs.gov
3. Submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
4. Check with your local police department. Please keep in mind, federal law enforcement agencies *may* check in with and/or request assistance from local law enforcement as it relates to federal law enforcement action taking place in a specific municipality, however they are not legally required to. This means the Chatham Police Department may or may not have knowledge of the results of any federal law enforcement activity with our jurisdiction.