



# DISTRICT ATTORNEYS AND THE ARREST-TO-DEPORTATION PIPELINE

**DEPORTATION** is a serious consequence of a conviction that extends beyond the hardship of a jail sentence. District Attorneys can and should help noncitizens avoid such immigration consequences to keep families together.

## WHAT POWER DOES THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY HAVE?

**BRING CHARGES:** Prosecutors decide who gets charged with which crime.

**PURSUE CONVICTIONS:** Prosecutors pursue and obtain convictions that may cause a defendant to be deported and/or ineligible for immigration benefits.

**AFFECT COMMUNITY SAFETY:** Prosecutors can promote community safety by seeking neutral case resolutions that won't cause deportations and ensuring their office is a safe space for all people, regardless of citizenship status.

## THE DA'S OFFICE CAN PREVENT DEPORTATIONS BY:

- Requiring that prosecutors understand and consider the immigration consequences of criminal offenses in all their decisions.
- Having prosecutors work with defense attorneys to find immigration-neutral outcomes for noncitizen defendants.
- Offering programs that expand alternatives to convictions and incarceration.
- Increasing opportunities to erase the immigration consequences of old convictions.
- Proactively pursuing policies that advance immigrant rights and ensure all people feel safe and are treated with dignity, regardless of immigration status.