



TEXAS'S PRIVATELY OPERATED AND ARMED 287(G) TRANSPORTATION SCHEME

DHS is colluding with GardaWorld, a private company, to rapidly transport individuals and families to ICE detention facilities. In this explainer, we break down the transport scheme.

OCTOBER 2026

After receiving [\\$170.7 billion in additional funding through H.R. 1](#), the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is finding new and dangerous ways to rapidly target and deport Texas residents. On August 31, 2026, DHS [awarded](#) GardaWorld Federal Services, a privately owned company, a \$382 million contract to begin an armed 287(g) transportation scheme throughout the state. Texas has one of the [highest number](#) of 287(g) agreements in the country. These agreements deputize law enforcement to act as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents to target communities for arrest and deportation. The newly announced [program](#)¹ will include armed transport teams, stationed in every Texas county that has a 287(g) agreement, ready to pick up individuals and families from a wide range of locations (traffic stops, hospitals, residences, jails, etc.) to ICE facilities. The transport scheme raises serious safety and legal concerns regarding GardaWorld's authority to transport individuals, families, and children.

HOW WILL THE 287(G) TRANSPORT SCHEME WORK?

Transport teams composed of at least one driver and one armed guard will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to receive remote calls from the newly created [National Coordination Center](#) (NCC) in Nashville, TN to pick up individuals.

1. ICE, **287(g) Texas Transportation Professional Support Services Performance Work Statement** (Aug.6, 2026), https://sam.gov/api/prod/opps/v3/opportunities/resources/files/3d06c8d11a1f49c0b499d059d3917b91/download?api_key=null&status=archived&token=; ICE, **Attachment 4 Government Response to Questions** (Aug.6, 2026), https://sam.gov/api/prod/opps/v3/opportunities/resources/files/3b799376151e47af85a43f3fd0aef2f3/download?api_key=null&status=archived&token=

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Armed teams will have a 30-minute deadline from call dispatch to arrive at the designated pick-up location. Although pick-up locations are only in Texas, drop off locations can include any ICE facility, ICE processing center, or ICE office in Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. As drop off locations may be outside of Texas, individuals and families may be in transport vehicles for several hours and potentially overnight.

WHERE WILL THE ARMED TRANSPORT TEAMS BE LOCATED?

Transport teams will be located in every Texas county, with likely several staging locations per locality to ensure armed teams arrive at the designated pickup location within the 30-minute deadline.

WHEN WILL THE 287(G) TRANSPORT SCHEME BEGIN?

Bexar, Dallas, Harris, and Tarrant counties are priority for implementation within 60 days of the August 31, 2026 contract award date and statewide within 120 days of the contract date. Additionally, DHS mentions potential plans to expand the program to states outside of Texas.

ARE THERE CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE PRIORITY TO BE TRANSPORTED?

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security does not identify individuals as priority for transport or enforcement, meaning anyone can be targeted due to their perceived race or ethnicity. Implementation documents instruct armed guards to be prepared to transport individuals and children and equip vehicles with restraints and potentially child car seats.

WHAT LEGAL AUTHORITY DOES A PRIVATELY OPERATED COMPANY HAVE TO TRANSPORT INDIVIDUALS?

The transport scheme raises significant questions about the legality a private company, not delegated with law enforcement or ICE authority, has to transport individuals

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and children. We know ICE [violates](#) constitutional law and [ignores](#) their own federal standards when conducting arrests and detentions, GardaWorld will likely follow suit. The private transport program will likely mean armed guards unlawfully detaining and transporting community members with absolutely no oversight or accountability.

WHAT WILL THIS TRANSPORT SCHEME LIKELY MEAN FOR TEXAS COMMUNITIES?

Texas currently has the highest number of [ICE arrests](#) in the country and one of the highest number of [287\(g\) agreements](#). Texas also holds more people in ICE detention than any other state, with an average daily detention population of [16,450](#). The armed transport scheme will equip ICE with even more resources to identify and transport individuals and families for rapid arrest, detention, and deportation.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO SUPPORT TEXAS COMMUNITIES WHO MAY BE TARGETED BY THIS 287(G) TRANSPORTATION SCHEME?

If you're an elected official:

- Demand DHS and GardaWorld provide your locality with implementation and operation plans of the transport program.
- Direct your local law enforcement agencies to not use GardaWorld transportation services.
- Assist and support your constituents who are harmed by this transportation scheme and pursue all potential avenues to address legal violations.

If you're an advocate:

- Share [Know Your Rights](#) (KYR) resources with your community. KYR information remains critical to protect people targeted for arrest and deportation.
- Join local rapid response networks to assist groups in documenting implementation of the transportation scheme to help communities understand



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how the program may scale deportation operations in your locality.

- Contact your local representatives and demand they take action to investigate this troubling program.

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