



TEXAS SHERIFFS

AND THE ARREST-TO-DEPORTATION PIPELINE

The Sheriff is the top-ranking law enforcement officer in a **county** police force. Unlike the police chief of a city or municipality, the sheriff is an **elected official**. Sheriffs run the county jail and play a critical role in ending the arrest-to-deportation pipeline.

WHAT POWER DOES A SHERIFF HAVE?

- Set law enforcement priorities and policies for the sheriff's office, such as establishing policies for officer interactions with the community and deprioritizing arrests for certain offenses
- Manage and operate county jails, including maintaining jail conditions and determining jail policies
- Make arrests and enforce state criminal laws in the county
- Serve warrants, papers, and other processes of the county courts
- Enforce traffic laws on county roads

SHERIFFS CAN PREVENT DEPORTATIONS IN 3 KEY WAYS



Detangling local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement



Reducing arrests and jail bookings



Building trust with immigrant communities

1 DETANGLING LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT¹



- Terminating any existing agreements with ICE, including 287(g), Warrant Service Officer (WSO), and Intergovernmental Service Agreements (IGSAs)
- Implementing a detainer review procedure to ensure the county is not honoring illegal or incomplete ICE detainer requests, and training staff on that procedure
- Providing copies of ICE detainers to the subject of the detainer and their criminal defense and immigration legal counsel
- Not honoring ICE detainers if the subject of the detainer provides any evidence of lawful immigration status, and training staff on acceptable types of evidence
- Providing ICE interview consent forms to all detainees and refusing to facilitate interviews if individuals have indicated they do not want to speak to ICE
- Prioritizing resources for local needs, instead of using resources to enable federal immigration enforcement activities, such as ICE raids
- Providing information to people in custody about their rights before ICE
- Removing questions about citizenship status from booking and intake forms
- Not providing federal immigration enforcement authorities with access to the jail or information and records regarding detainees unless required to under state law
- Not flagging potential noncitizens for ICE

2 REDUCING ARRESTS AND JAIL BOOKINGS

- Implementing pre-arrest deflection/diversion programs to ensure that all people, regardless of immigration status, have access to the social services needed to address the root causes of criminal behavior
- Implementing cite and release policies to reduce arrests for low-level offenses



3 BUILDING TRUST WITH IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

- Providing information on legal resources to detainees, such as a list of immigration legal service providers
- Ensuring access to counsel within the jail by expanding visiting hours, low-cost phone services, free hotline connections, library access, and permissive policies about personal property so that inmates can collect evidence and legal documents
- Offering programs that expand alternatives to pre-trial detention and incarceration
- Working with community partners to ensure “know your rights” information is available to detained individuals
- Instituting community involvement by holding regular community forums with interpretation in commonly spoken languages
- Proactively pursuing policies that advance immigrant rights and ensure all people feel safe and are treated with dignity, regardless of immigration status
- Supporting the repeal of anti-immigrant state laws, such as SB 4, and advocating against other proposed anti-immigrant measures



¹ This resource was created while Texas’s anti-immigrant state law, SB 4, remains in effect. A Sheriff may have the authority to take additional measures to detangle their agency from federal immigration enforcement if SB 4 is repealed.