In December 2012, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) issued a new immigration detainer form I-247 and new policy guidance regarding immigration detainers. This practice advisory analyzes the new guidance, including who is and is not likely to be subject to ICE detainers under the new policy, the significance of these changes, and what problems remain.

The following advisory will address:

1. What triggered the issuance of the December 2012 new detainer guidance and form?
2. What is ICE’s stated purpose in issuing the guidance and new form?
3. What improvements have been made and whom does the guidance help avoid a detainer?
4. Who does the detainer guidance still capture?
5. How does ICE’s new guidance address longstanding problems with detainers?

I. What triggered the issuance of the December 2012 New Detainer Guidance and Form?

On December 21, 2012, ICE announced new detainer guidance, allegedly focusing resources on key deportation priorities. The new guidance is likely a result of increasing pressure on ICE from local ordinances rejecting ICE detainers, lawsuits challenging their constitutionality, and public outcry about ICE undermining public safety by turning local law enforcement into immigration agents. In particular, the California Trust Act, statewide legislation modeled after similar local ordinances around the country, resulted in a national discussion of the nature of ICE detainers. Additionally, the California Attorney General issued a bulletin determining that California law enforcement was not legally required to hold individuals subject to ICE detainers.

Nonetheless, the Obama administration has deported record-breaking numbers of individuals, largely enabled by widespread and indiscriminate use of immigration detainers. In 2012, deportations reached 409,849. ICE’s most recent changes to the detainer form reflect the agency’s concerns that local law enforcement might stop cooperating with immigration detainers. The changes attempt to encourage continued detainer compliance by

1 For any questions on this advisory contact Angie Junck, Supervising Attorney, Immigrant Legal Resource Center at ajunck@ilrc.org or Lena Graber, Soros Justice Fellow, National Immigration Project at lena@nipnlg.org.
2 December 21, 2012 Memorandum from John Morton, Director of ICE, titled “Civil Immigration Enforcement: Guidance on the Use of Detainers in the Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Criminal Justice Systems,” (herein titled “2012 Memo” and attached as Addendum A) and the revised ICE detainer form I-247 (attached as Addendum B). The 2012 Memo and new ICE detainer form are collectively referred to as “New Detainer Guidance” or “New Guidance.”
3 Also known as an “immigration hold” or “ICE hold.”
4 The Trust Act, AB 4, is legislation reintroduced in December 2012 in the California state legislature, which would set a state-wide standard for circumstances in which ICE hold requests would be enforced. The TRUST Act would set a floor not a ceiling for local jurisdictions, thereby not trumping local policies that are more expansive in declining to honor ICE detainers than the TRUST Act. Such state wide discussions have not been limited to California. Under similar pressure from litigation and local advocacy, the Connecticut Department of Corrections adopted a state-wide policy dramatically limiting the circumstances in which Connecticut jails would comply with immigration hold requests. This is just a sampling of the many examples of efforts around the country to challenge ICE’s controversial detainer practices.
6 Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), FY 2012: ICE announces year-end removal numbers, highlights focus on key priorities and issues new national detainer guidance to further focus resources, News Releases (December 21, 2012) Available at http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/1212/121221washingtondc2.htm
supposedly providing law enforcement agencies more information regarding the issuance of the ICE detainer. Without this cooperation, ICE would not be deporting nearly as many people.

II. What is ICE’s Stated Purpose in Issuing the Guidance and New Form?

The December 2012 ICE detainer guidance claims to limit

the use of detainers to individuals who meet the department's enforcement priorities and restricts the use of detainers against individuals arrested for minor misdemeanor offenses such as traffic offenses and other petty crimes, helping to ensure that available resources are focused on apprehending felons, repeat offenders and other ICE priorities.\(^8\)

The guidance and new form may result in fewer detainers issued against individuals with minor traffic offenses. However, these alleged reforms fall short of ensuring that ICE detainers will be focused on its stated priority targets, namely noncitizens with serious or violent felony convictions. Instead, loopholes and catch-all provisions in the new form ensure that countless people who do not qualify as ICE priority targets will continue to be rounded up through the ICE detainer dragnet.\(^9\)

III. What Improvements Have Been Made and Whom Does the Guidance Help?

The new guidance includes a series of structural changes in the ICE detainer form, the results of which are discussed below.

a. The New Form Provides More Information About Why the Detainer Might Have Been Issued – But Misleads About Immigration Law

The new guidance appears to provide a more detailed basis for the issuance of an ICE detainer. However, the form simply provides more information on the individual, which may or may not be a basis for deportation, but is meant to appeal to public safety concerns of law enforcement officials.

The previous ICE detainer (issued in 2011 and attached as Addendum C) provided the basis for issuing the detainer by stating “[t]he U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has taken the following action related to the person identified above, currently in your custody,” and in most cases ICE agents simply marked the box that said ICE has “[i]nitiated an investigation to determine whether this person is subject to removal from the United States.”\(^10\)

On the new form, ICE has replaced “initiated an investigation” with more assertive language: DHS has “[d]etermined that there is reason to believe the individual is an alien subject to removal from the United States.”\(^11\) This is followed by eight boxes which DHS may check including various criminal convictions, certain civil violations, a catch-all public safety category and a catch-all “other” category. Unfortunately, these subcategories are misleading. The form does not assert any particular relevance of the subcategories, but they seem to suggest bases for which someone should be detained, or

\(^8\) Id.
\(^9\) The new guidance “applies to all uses of ICE detainers regardless of whether the contemplated use arises out of the Criminal Alien Program, Secure Communities, a 287(g) agreement, or any other ICE enforcement effort,” and replaces prior ICE detainer interim guidance. John Morton, Director of ICE, December 21, 2012 Memorandum titled “Civil Immigration Enforcement: Guidance on the Use of Detainers in the Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Criminal Justice Systems,” at Addendum A.
might be “dangerous.”

The real issue is that the ICE detainer form fails to identify alleged deportability under federal immigration law. The subcategories on the form do not correlate to the grounds of deportability under immigration law. For example, having “three or more prior misdemeanor convictions” as listed on the detainer form may not trigger deportability depending on the convictions.\(^\text{12}\)

Only a Notice To Appear (NTA, Form I-862) formally lists the basis of deportability lodged by the government against an individual, and advocates should be clear that an immigration detainer is not commensurate to a NTA. Never assume deportability simply because ICE has issued a detainer or NTA. Similarly, a detainer does not necessarily mean that a NTA is going to be issued or has been issued, unless so indicated on the detainer form.

b. The New Guidance Comes Closer to a Standard of Proof

The new guidance now indicates that detainer issuance must meet a standard of proof. Whereas the previous form stated that DHS had “initiated an investigation,”\(^\text{13}\) into whether a person was deportable, which seemed to mean that ICE could put a detainer on anyone, the current form provides that “there is reason to believe the individual is an alien subject to removal from the United States.”\(^\text{14}\)

While ICE has stated that there has always been a reason to believe standard of proof in issuing a detainer, the form provides clearer guidance that mere investigation of a person without reason to believe they are deportable, is insufficient to issue a detainer. However, ICE notably failed to use the more familiar, constitutional language of “probable cause.” There is also little evidence of any change in training or instruction to the field, so the impact remains to be seen.

c. The New Guidance Clarifies That ICE Detainers are Requests

The new guidance unequivocally states that ICE detainers are requests. While the prior form used the word request, it provided contradictory language in a subsequent part of the form stating, “a law enforcement agency ‘shall maintain custody of an alien’ once a detainer has been issued by DHS.”\(^\text{15}\) Law enforcement agencies continued to believe that compliance with ICE detainers was mandatory due to the “shall” language in federal regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 287.7(d). The new form omits the “shall” language, leaving only the “requests” language. Unfortunately, the federal regulations retain the same confusing language as before.\(^\text{16}\)

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\(^\text{12}\) Moreover, DHS could have other grounds for deportation than those checked on the detainer form, since the form does not include every possible legal basis for deportation.

\(^\text{13}\) Department of Homeland Security, Immigration Detainer Notice of Action, DHS Form I-247 issued December 2011, at Addendum C.

\(^\text{14}\) Id. (emphasis added). Courts have equated “reason to believe” with the probable cause standard. See e.g., Au Yi Lau v. INS, 445 F. 2d 217 (D.C. Cir. 1971). It is unknown whether instructions to ICE agents in the field clarify that “reason to believe” means agents must have probable cause of deportability.


\(^\text{16}\) The regulation governing ICE detainers, 8 C.F.R. section 287.7 has conflicting shall and request language in subsections (d) and (a), respectively, regarding compliance with ICE detainers. This conflict has caused confusion among law enforcement about whether compliance with ICE detainers is mandatory or discretionary.
d. The New Guidance May Result in Certain People no Longer Receiving ICE Detainers

The new guidance should exclude certain categories of people who previously were subject to ICE detainers, including:

- People (undocumented and lawful status alike) with no prior criminal convictions who have been picked up for certain traffic violations (e.g., driving without a license, driving without insurance). However, the new form specifically includes driving under the influence convictions so these charges/convictions will likely continue to trigger detainers.
- People (undocumented and lawful status alike) with two misdemeanor convictions not involving the enumerated crimes listed on the new form. For example, misdemeanor theft and other property crimes should not trigger a detainer. Thus, certain people who might actually be deportable, such as a lawful permanent resident with a first time petty theft within five years of admission, should not receive an ICE detainer.

BUT NOTE!

- Under 8 U.S.C. § 1357, the statute governing immigration detainers, lawful permanent residents should not receive immigration detainers at all, because detainers are limited to individuals who law enforcement officials have reason to believe entered illegally or are present without authorization.
- There is a catch all “other” category in the new form which may be used as a way to get around these categories. DHS might also claim that it has reason to believe that an individual is deportable without disclosing the exact basis.
- These categories assume that the person does not have prior convictions, which might otherwise trigger other grounds for ICE detainer issuance.

IV. Who Does the Detainer Guidance Still Capture?

Despite the aforementioned benefits, advocates should keep a watchful eye for abuse. The new guidance is vague, and still captures people with minor offenses, those with only civil immigration charges, those whose charges have not resulted in convictions, and those who are not deportable at all.

a. Even People Who Do Not Meet ICE’s Enforcement Priorities Will Continue Receive Detainers

The Administration has issued several memoranda meant to focus immigration enforcement resources on only a subset of noncitizens. Among these, the leading authority came on March 2, 2011, when ICE Director John Morton delineated three enforcement priorities including 1) “Aliens who pose a danger to national security or are a risk to public safety,” 2) “[r]ecent illegal entrants” and 3) “[a]liens who are fugitives or otherwise obstruct immigration controls” (herein after “March 2011 Morton Memo”).

However, the new detainer guidance continues to capture offenses beyond those listed in the March 2011 Morton Memo. When reading the broad list of offenses covered by the new form, including charges for “driving under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance,” “unlawful flight from the scene of an accident,” and “three or more prior misdemeanor convictions” this becomes a situation where the exceptions...
swallow the rule. Even the March 2011 Morton Memo recognizes that such offenses may not warrant enforcement resources,\textsuperscript{20} yet under the new guidance these offenses continue to be targeted.

Example - Overly expansive, and reaches beyond ICE’s own priorities:

John entered the US without inspection in 2005, when he was 23 years old. He has lived in Idaho since that time, working on a ranch. In 2013, he was pulled over by a state trooper for driving while intoxicated and without a license. He was arrested and taken into local custody.

John will probably receive an ICE detainer, likely leading to deportation proceedings, because ICE directs their agents to issue a detainer for anyone who “has a prior misdemeanor conviction or has been charged with a misdemeanor offense if the case involves…driving under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance.” This is regardless of whether this is a first time offense or if the charges are ultimately dropped, and even if John was not intoxicated at all. With the exception of a few unusual state crimes, DUI convictions generally do not trigger grounds of inadmissibility or deportation.

b. The Catch-all Categories New Limitations

The boxes following the language that DHS has “[d]etermined that there is reason to believe the individual is an alien subject to removal from the United States,” include certain categories that are vague and subject to abuse. Some of the more concerning categories are as follows:

- One box provides, “otherwise poses a significant risk to national security, border security, or public safety” Without requiring any proof for such statements or definitions for what these terms imply, this box could be checked in most any circumstance and without consistency.
- The last box is listed as an “other” category, serving as a catch-all box with very little room to provide further details.

Example - Vague and lacking protections for juveniles:

Donald is 17-years-old and entered the U.S. without inspection in 2002. He lives with his older brother in St. Louis, Missouri. Donald’s brother used to be involved with a gang some years ago, but now works in construction. Donald is still in high school. In 2013, Donald was trying to buy beer with a friend’s ID, but the liquor store took the ID and called the police. Instead of citing and releasing him, local police arrested him and took him into local custody.

If Donald is in a gang database as a result of his brother’s former affiliation, Donald will probably get a detainer, because ICE says that they will place detainers on individuals who pose “a significant risk to national security, border security, or public safety.” ICE includes known gang members among these. Although Donald has not been involved with any gang, he could be in a gang database because of his brother, and therefore might receive a detainer, even if he ultimately is able to prove that he is not a gang member. ICE’s detainer policy does not make any explicit exceptions for juveniles.

\textsuperscript{20} Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Memorandum, Policy No. 10072.1, \textit{Civil Immigration Enforcement: Priorities for the Apprehension, Detention, and Removal of Aliens}, FN 4 (March 2, 2011), available at http://www.ice.gov/doclib/news/releases/2011/110302washingtonde.pdf (“Some misdemeanors are relatively minor and do not warrant the same degree of focus as others. ICE agents and officers should exercise particular discretion when dealing with minor traffic offenses such as driving without a license”).
c. Persons with Civil Immigration Violations and No Criminal History May be Subject to a Detainer

The inclusion of categories dedicated only to civil immigration violations, such as having been served with a Notice to Appear or having received a prior deportation order, give the false impression that these categories carry public safety concerns. This is particularly troubling given the number of deportations attributed to such nonviolent civil offenses.21

- A box on the new form describes someone who “has illegally re-entered the country after a previous removal or return.” This is problematic because it appears to equate a “return” with an order of removal, or deportation order, which it is not. Individuals subject to a voluntary return who re-enter the country have not necessarily illegally re-entered.

Example - Captures purely civil immigration violations:

Lily came to the U.S. across the Mexican border in 2003. She was stopped by the Border Patrol outside of San Diego and briefly detained. She cannot remember if Border Patrol made her sign any papers, but she did not see an immigration judge. Border patrol returned Lily to Mexico the day after she was apprehended. Later that week, she successfully crossed the border and has lived in Fresno, California ever since. Lily was stopped for a broken taillight in 2012, and arrested because she did not have a valid license.

Lily will probably receive a detainer under ICE’s policy, even though she has no criminal history and was stopped merely for a traffic violation, because she was previously apprehended at the border. Lily may have signed a stipulated removal order at that time, or she may simply have been fingerprinted and returned. But in either case, ICE directs its agents to file detainers against anyone who has re-entered the country after a previous removal or return.

V. How does ICE’s new guidance address longstanding problems with detainers?

While ICE changed the language of the detainer form, it remains unclear if the administration or training will change. In the past, detainers have been incorrectly issued and there have even been cases of ICE detainers being issued to U.S. Citizens.22 Without transparency on the issuance of ICE detainers, there is no guarantee that these problems will cease. Furthermore, when detainers interact with the criminal justice system, they disrupt fundamental constitutional rights for immigrants and citizens alike.

a. ICE Detainers Still Cause a Second-Tier Criminal Justice System for Immigrants

The existence of ICE detainers under any policy revision results in different treatment of people with the same criminal history, based on immigration status alone. ICE detainers are used as an additional criminal

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21 For example, Secure Communities (S-Comm) is one ICE program which generates ICE detainers. Since the inception of S-Comm in 2008 through December 2012, there have been 246,924 deportations, 57,793 of which have resulted purely from civil immigration violations including overstaying a visa and being ordered deported. This represents almost a quarter of deportations under that program. Moreover, according to data from the Transaction Records Access Clearinghouse, ICE issued nearly one million detainers in fiscal years 2008-2011. As of February 2013, ICE’s records on those individuals revealed that less than a quarter of them had any criminal conviction. Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC), Who Are the Targets of ICE Detainers, (February 20, 2013) available at: http://trac.syr.edu/immigration/reports/310/.

22 See e.g., Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC), Who Are the Targets of ICE Detainers, (February 20, 2013) (between fiscal years 2008 and fiscal years 2012, it was noted that detainers had been placed on 834 U.S. Citizens and 28,489 legal permanent residents), available at: http://trac.syr.edu/immigration/reports/310/.
enforcement tool against immigrants alone, and frequently results in the denial of bail, ineligibility for rehabilitative services and programs, and longer periods of incarceration.23

Example - Two-tiered criminal justice system because of detainers:

Roger was born in San Diego, California and is a U.S. Citizen. Paola was born in Brazil but has spent most of her life in the United States. Both have recently received a first time possession of a controlled substance in California but are eligible for Proposition 36, a program which focuses on drug programming and rehabilitation and not incarceration.

Roger will not be incarcerated, will be able to participate in Proposition 36 drug program, and will move on with his life. Paola will receive an ICE detainer triggered by the controlled substance conviction and therefore, be detained even though Proposition 36 states that a person shall not be incarcerated. Paola will likely be denied drug rehabilitative relief, continue to be detained, and handed over to ICE upon completion of her sentence. Given the harsh immigration laws against controlled substances, she may also be deported.

b. Persons Charged But Not Convicted of Criminal Offenses, Will Continue to Receive Detainers

The revised detainer guidance targets individuals who face criminal charges that have not resulted in convictions. This undermines due process and the principle of innocent until proven guilty. Many people are charged with more serious offenses than what they ultimately plead to.24 A prosecutor, for example, may offer a criminal defendant a plea to a less serious offense for any number of reasons, including but not limited to the initial overcharging of the defendant, the strength of the evidence, and the lack of reliability or cooperation of witnesses. Moreover, sometimes charges are entirely dismissed. If the criminal justice system has not come to the conclusion that a person has committed a given offense, neither should ICE.

c. The New Detainer Guidance Still Fails to Include Procedural Safeguards

The bottom portion of the detainer form provides a series of requests to law enforcement, some of which should be mandatory in every case, but instead are empty check boxes:

- The second option, that a copy of the detainer should be provided to the subject, should be standard in every case. This is basic, easy to administer, and written notice is generally a fundamental requirement before depriving someone of their liberty.
- The box indicating that the request be considered “operative only upon the subject’s conviction” should also be standard. In addition to violating due process and the basic principle that one is innocent until proven guilty, the criminal justice process is disregarded if a detainer is operative before a conviction.

23 Katherine Beckett and Heather Evans, Immigration Detainer Requests in King County, Washington: Costs and Consequences (University of Washington, March 26, 2013); Judith Greene, The Cost of Responding to Immigration Detainers in California (Justice Strategies, August 22, 2012); Andrea Guttin, The Criminal Alien Program: Immigration Enforcement in Travis County, Texas (Immigration Policy Center, August 2010).

24 Today plea bargaining is the norm nationally, as 95% of criminal convictions result from plea bargains. Padilla v. Kentucky, 130 S. Ct. 1473, 1486 n. 13 (2010). See also Thomas H. Cohen & Tracey Kyckelhahn, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Dep’t of Justice, Felony Defendants in Large Urban Counties, 2006, at 10, Table 11 (2010), (providing evidence in the 75 largest counties in the country that 50% of felony defendants did not plead to original charge); Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Dep’t of Justice, Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 2003, p. 418 (31st ed. 2005) (Table 5.17) (only approximately 5%, or 8,612 out of 68,533, of federal criminal prosecutions go to trial); id., at 450 (Table 5.46) (only approximately 5% of all state felony criminal prosecutions go to trial).
Additionally, the guidance still fails to provide sufficient safeguards for victims of crimes and juveniles. ICE should articulate explicit exceptions for juveniles. And despite a notification at the bottom of the form that ICE should be informed if the subject is a victim of a crime, there is no assurance that such information will come to light or that ICE will not detain that person.

Example - Insufficient safeguards for victims:

Minnie entered the U.S. as a tourist in 1994 and never left the country. She married in 2007, and she and her husband live in rural South Carolina. In 2011, Minnie’s husband began being controlling and abusive towards her. In 2013, Minnie's husband began to hit her and she fought back to defend herself. A neighbor called the police, and both Minnie and her husband were arrested for assault.

Minnie will probably receive an immigration detainer, even though she has no prior criminal history and is a victim of abuse, because ICE's detainer policy says that ICE should issue a detainer against an individual who has pending charges involving violence, threats, or assault. The detainer may also prevent her from being granted bail, making it much more difficult to obtain evidence in her defense. If Minnie were identified as a victim and the ICE office also considered the 2011 memorandum regarding prosecutorial discretion, then Minnie might not receive a detainer, or could have her detainer lifted. It is not clear, however, whether law enforcement will flag her status and alert ICE, or how ICE would review that information.

d. The New Guidance Does not Govern Border Patrol or Customs Agents

ICE is a component agency of the Department of Homeland Security, and it does not have control over Customs and Border Protection (CBP) or the Border Patrol, which is part of CBP. CBP and Border Patrol agents have authority to issue detainers, and they use the ICE detainer form I-247, but they are not governed by ICE policies. CBP does not have any known policy governing the issuance of immigration detainers.

Example - Border Patrol may not follow ICE priorities:

Sara came to the U.S. as a student in 1992, and overstayed after her student visa expired. She moved to Louisiana and married an undocumented immigrant, with whom she has three U.S. citizen children. In 2013, Sara is a passenger in a friend’s car when they are stopped by local police for turning right at a red light. Although Sara’s friend the driver has a valid drivers’ license, she speaks broken English with an accent, as does Sara. The policeman holds them on the side of the road and calls Border Patrol. When the Border Patrol agents arrive, they interrogate both Sara and her friend about their immigration status.

Even though Sara has no criminal history and is not an ICE priority for deportation, Border Patrol is not subject to ICE policies, and may make its own determinations about whether to issue a detainer.

e. The New Guidance Fails to Address Persistent Constitutional Problems with ICE Detainers

i. Sixth Amendment Access to Counsel Problems

ICE detainers can obstruct the Sixth Amendment right to counsel if defendants are transferred to ICE prior to the conclusion of their criminal case. When ICE detainers are enforced, noncitizens are introduced to a

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labyrinth of detention centers, which may result in the noncitizen being transferred across the country. Because ICE generally will not transfer a noncitizen back to criminal court to see his/her criminal attorney or adjudicate an open criminal case, transferring a noncitizen to ICE effectively cuts off access to his/her criminal counsel.

ii. Fourth Amendment Problems Due to Seizure Without Probable Cause

Fourth Amendment violations continue as flagrantly as before. The Fourth Amendment requires judicial approval in the form of a warrant or hearing shortly after detention, but such procedures rarely, if ever, follow an immigration detainer. ICE detainers continue to be issued by ICE agents, as opposed to a judge or neutral magistrate. This replaces the role of a reviewing judicial officer with an agent whose job is to deport people.

The Fourth Amendment requires a probable cause determination before law enforcement can take custody of an individual. In the new ICE detainer form, the words “initiated an investigation” have been deleted and the words “reason to believe” have been inserted. Courts have equated reason to believe with the probable cause standard. However, the printed change on the detainer form does not necessarily equate to a change in the evidentiary standards under which ICE detainers are issued. Without some assurance that practices have actually changed, a mere change in wording does not ensure that Fourth Amendment rights are being protected.

iii. Unlawful and Prolonged Detention under Fifth and Fourteenth Amendment

Problems persist in violation of Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments rights to liberty and due process:

- Detainees do not receive consistent or prompt notification that they are subject to an ICE detainer.
- Local law enforcement agencies may or may not provide any review or even any opportunity to contact ICE to question or contest the placement of a detainer.
- ICE detainers continue to cause unlawful detention of individuals beyond the expiration of state custody, or even the supposed authority of the 48 hour period in the federal regulations.

VI. CONCLUSION

Amendments to ICE’s detainer form and policy do not change the underlying immigration laws, regulations, or constitutional rights of people in the United States. Without accompanying changes in agency training, protocol, supervision, and accountability, modifications to a form and a policy memorandum may have little effect on what the agency does. The few notable changes include a standard of proof on the detainer form and providing law enforcement more information on the individual in an effort to promote law enforcement compliance. However, ICE’s new guidance does not mark a significant policy development or change in ICE operations for the issuance or enforcement of immigration detainers.

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27 In 2011, ICE created a hotline for citizens or victims or crime to report erroneous detainers. This is an important step, but leaves any other procedural violations unaddressed.
Addendum A
MEMORANDUM FOR: All Field Office Directors  
All Special Agents in Charge  
All Chief Counsel  

FROM: John Morton  
Director  

SUBJECT: Civil Immigration Enforcement: Guidance on the Use of Detainers 
in the Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Criminal Justice Systems  

Purpose  

This memorandum provides guidance on the use of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainers in the federal, state, local, and tribal criminal justice systems. This guidance applies to all uses of ICE detainers regardless of whether the contemplated use arises out of the Criminal Alien Program, Secure Communities, a 287(g) agreement, or any other ICE enforcement effort. This guidance does not govern the use of detainers by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). This guidance replaces Sections 4.2 and 4.5 of the August 2010 Interim Guidance on Detainers (Policy Number 10074.1) and otherwise supplements the remaining sections of that same guidance.  

Background  

In the memorandum entitled Civil Immigration Enforcement: Priorities for the Apprehension, Detention, and Removal of Aliens, issued in June 2010, ICE set forth clear priorities that guide its civil immigration enforcement. These priorities ensure that ICE’s finite enforcement resources are dedicated, to the greatest extent possible, to individuals whose removal promotes public safety, national security, border security, and the integrity of the immigration system.  

As ICE’s implementation of these priorities continues, it is of critical importance that ICE remain focused on ensuring that the priorities are uniformly, transparently, and effectively pursued. To that end, ICE issues the following guidance governing the use of detainers in the nation’s criminal justice system at the federal, state, local, and tribal levels. This guidance will ensure that the agency’s use of detainers in the criminal justice system uniformly applies the

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1 As amended and updated by the memorandum of the same title issued March 2, 2011.
National Detainer Guidance

Consistent with ICE’s civil enforcement priorities and absent extraordinary circumstances, ICE agents and officers should issue a detainer in the federal, state, local, or tribal criminal justice systems against an individual only where (1) they have reason to believe the individual is an alien subject to removal from the United States and (2) one or more of the following conditions apply:

- the individual has a prior felony conviction or has been charged with a felony offense;
- the individual has three or more prior misdemeanor convictions;
- the individual has a prior misdemeanor conviction or has been charged with a misdemeanor offense if the misdemeanor conviction or pending charge involves—
  - violence, threats, or assault;
  - sexual abuse or exploitation;
  - driving under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance;
  - unlawful flight from the scene of an accident;
  - unlawful possession or use of a firearm or other deadly weapon;
  - the distribution or trafficking of a controlled substance; or
  - other significant threat to public safety;
- the individual has been convicted of illegal entry pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1325;
- the individual has illegally re-entered the country after a previous removal or return;
- the individual has an outstanding order of removal;
- the individual has been found by an immigration officer or an immigration judge to have knowingly committed immigration fraud; or
- the individual otherwise poses a significant risk to national security, border security, or public safety.

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2 Given limited enforcement resources, three or more convictions for minor traffic misdemeanors or other relatively minor misdemeanors alone should not trigger a detainer unless the convictions reflect a clear and continuing danger to others or disregard for the law.

3 A significant threat to public safety is one which poses a significant risk of harm or injury to a person or property.

4 For example, the individual is a suspected terrorist, a known gang member, or the subject of an outstanding felony arrest warrant; or the detainer is issued in furtherance of an ongoing felony criminal or national security investigation.
Revised Detainer Form

To ensure consistent application of this guidance, ICE will revise the DHS detainer form, Form I-247. The revised detainer form, which should be used in all cases once it is issued, will specifically list the grounds above and require the issuing officer or agent to identify those that apply so that the receiving agency and alien will know the specific basis for the detainer. The changes to the form will make it easy for officers and agents to document the immigration enforcement priorities and prosecutorial discretion analysis they have completed leading to the issuance of the detainer.

Prosecutorial Discretion

This guidance identifies those removable aliens in the federal, state, local, and tribal criminal justice systems for whom a detainer may be considered. It does not require a detainer in each case, and all ICE officers, agents, and attorneys should continue to evaluate the merits of each case based on the June 2011 memorandum entitled Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion Consistent with the Civil Immigration Enforcement Priorities of the Agency for the Apprehension, Detention, and Removal of Aliens and other applicable agency policies.

Six-Month Review

ICE Field Office Directors, Chief Counsel, and Special Agents in Charge should closely evaluate the implementation and effect of this guidance in their respective jurisdictions for a period of six months from the date of this memorandum. Based on the results of this evaluation, ICE will consider whether modifications, if any, are needed.

Disclaimer

This guidance does not create or confer any right or benefit on any person or party, public or private. Nothing in this guidance should be construed to limit ICE’s power to apprehend, charge, detain, administratively prosecute, or remove any alien unlawfully in the United States or to limit the legal authority of ICE or its personnel to enforce federal immigration law. Similarly, this guidance, which may be modified, superseded, or rescinded at any time, is not intended to, does not, and may not be relied upon to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by any party in any administrative, civil, or criminal matter.

This guidance does not cover or control those detainers issued by officers and agents of CBP. Detainers issued by CBP officers and agents shall remain governed by existing CBP policy, and nothing in this guidance is intended to limit CBP’s power to apprehend, charge, detain, or remove any alien unlawfully in the United States.
Addendum B
MAINTAIN CUSTODY OF ALIEN FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED 48 HOURS

Name of Alien: _________________________________________________________________
Date of Birth: _________________________ Nationality: ____________________________ Sex: ____________

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) HAS TAKEN THE FOLLOWING ACTION RELATED TO
THE PERSON IDENTIFIED ABOVE, CURRENTLY IN YOUR CUSTODY:

☐ Determined that there is reason to believe the individual is an alien subject to removal from the United States. The individual (check all that apply):
☐ has a prior felony conviction or has been charged with a felony offense;
☐ has three or more prior misdemeanor convictions;
☐ has a prior misdemeanor conviction or has been charged with a misdemeanor for an offense that involves violence, threats, or assaults; sexual abuse or exploitation; driving under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance; unlawful flight from the scene of an accident; the unlawful possession or use of a firearm or other deadly weapon, the distribution or trafficking of a controlled substance; or other significant threat to public safety;
☐ has been convicted of illegal entry pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1325;
☐ has illegally re-entered the country after a previous removal or return;
☐ has been found by an immigration officer or an immigration judge to have knowingly committed immigration fraud;
☐ otherwise poses a significant risk to national security, border security, or public safety; and/or
☐ other (specify): __________________________________.

Initiated removal proceedings and served a Notice to Appear or other charging document. A copy of the charging document is attached and was served on _________________ (date).

Served a warrant of arrest for removal proceedings. A copy of the warrant is attached and was served on _________________ (date).

Obtained an order of deportation or removal from the United States for this person.

This action does not limit your discretion to make decisions related to this person’s custody classification, work, quarter assignments, or other matters. DHS discourages dismissing criminal charges based on the existence of a detainer.

IT IS REQUESTED THAT YOU:

☐ Maintain custody of the subject for a period NOT TO EXCEED 48 HOURS, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, beyond the time when the subject would have otherwise been released from your custody to allow DHS to take custody of the subject. This request derives from federal regulation 8 C.F.R. § 287.7. For purposes of this immigration detainer, you are not authorized to hold the subject beyond these 48 hours. As early as possible prior to the time you otherwise would release the subject, please notify DHS by calling __________ during business hours or __________ after hours or in an emergency. If you cannot reach a DHS Official at these numbers, please contact the ICE Law Enforcement Support Center in Burlington, Vermont at: (802) 872-6020.

☐ Provide a copy to the subject of this detainer.

☐ Notify this office of the time of release at least 30 days prior to release or as far in advance as possible.

☐ Notify this office in the event of the inmate’s death, hospitalization or transfer to another institution.

☐ Consider this request for a detainer operative only upon the subject’s conviction.

☐ Cancel the detainer previously placed by this Office on _________________ (date).

(Name and title of Immigration Officer) (Signature of Immigration Officer)

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY CURRENTLY HOLDING THE SUBJECT OF THIS NOTICE:

Please provide the information below, sign, and return to DHS using the envelope enclosed for your convenience or by faxing a copy to __________. You should maintain a copy for your own records so you may track the case and not hold the subject beyond the 48-hour period.

Local Booking/Inmate #: __________ Latest criminal charge/conviction: __________ (date) Estimated release: __________ (date)

Last criminal charge/conviction: ________________________________________________________________________________

Notice: Once in our custody, the subject of this detainer may be removed from the United States. If the individual may be the victim of a crime, or if you want this individual to remain in the United States for prosecution or other law enforcement purposes, including acting as a witness, please notify the ICE Law Enforcement Support Center at (802) 872-6020.

(Name and title of Officer) (Signature of Officer)
NOTICE TO THE DETAINEE

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has placed an immigration detainer on you. An immigration detainer is a notice from DHS informing law enforcement agencies that DHS intends to assume custody of you after you otherwise would be released from custody. DHS has requested that the law enforcement agency which is currently detaining you maintain custody of you for a period not to exceed 48 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) beyond the time when you would have been released by the state or local law enforcement authorities based on your criminal charges or convictions. If DHS does not take you into custody during that additional 48 hour period, not counting weekends or holidays, you should contact your custodian (the law enforcement agency or other entity that is holding you now) to inquire about your release from state or local custody. If you have a complaint regarding this detainer or related to violations of civil rights or civil liberties connected to DHS activities, please contact the ICE Joint Intake Center at 1-877-2INTAKE (877-246-8253). If you believe you are a United States citizen or the victim of a crime, please advise DHS by calling the ICE Law Enforcement Support Center toll free at (855) 448-6903.

NOTIFICACIÓN A LA PERSONA DETENIDA

El Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS) de EE. UU. ha emitido una orden de detención inmigratoria en su contra. Mediante esta orden, se notifica a los organismos policiales que el DHS pretende arrestarlo cuando usted cumpla su reclusión actual. El DHS ha solicitado que el organismo policial local o estatal a cargo de su actual detención lo mantenga en custodia por un período no mayor a 48 horas (excluyendo sábados, domingos y días festivos) tras el cese de su reclusión penal. Si el DHS no procede con su arresto inmigratorio durante este período adicional de 48 horas, excluyendo los fines de semana o días festivos, usted debe comunicarse con la autoridad estatal o local que lo tiene detenido (el organismo policial u otra entidad a cargo de su custodia actual) para obtener mayores detalles sobre el cese de su reclusión. Si tiene alguna queja que se relacione con esta orden de detención o con posibles infracciones a los derechos o libertades civiles en conexión con las actividades del DHS, comuníquese con el Joint Intake Center (Centro de Admisión) del ICE (Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas) llamando al 1-877-2INTAKE (877-246-8253). Si usted cree que es ciudadano de los Estados Unidos o que ha sido víctima de un delito, infórmezelo al DHS llamando al Centro de Apoyo a los Organismos Policiales (Law Enforcement Support Center) del ICE, teléfono (855) 448-6903 (llamada gratuita).

Avis au détenu

Le département de la Sécurité Intérieure [Department of Homeland Security (DHS)] a émis, à votre encontre, un ordre d'incarcération pour des raisons d'immigration. Un ordre d'incarcération pour des raisons d'immigration est un avis du DHS informant les agences des forces de l'ordre que le DHS a l'intention de vous détenir après la date normale de votre remise en liberté. Le DHS a requis que l'agence des forces de l'ordre, qui vous détient actuellement, vous garde en détention pour une période maximum de 48 heures (excluant les samedis, dimanches et jours fériés) au-delà de la période à la fin de laquelle vous auriez été remis en liberté par les autorités policières de l'État ou locales en fonction des inculpations ou condamnations pénales à votre encontre. Si le DHS ne vous détient pas durant cette période supplémentaire de 48 heures, sans compter les fins de semaines et les jours fériés, vous devez contacter votre gardien (l'agence des forces de l'ordre qui vous détient actuellement) pour vous renseigner à propos de votre libération par l'État ou à l'autorité locale. Si vous avez une plainte à formuler au sujet de cet ordre d'incarcération ou en rapport avec des violations de vos droits civils liées à des activités du DHS, veuillez contacter le centre commun d'admissions du Service de l'Immigration et des Douanes [ICE - Immigration and Customs Enforcement] [ICE Joint Intake Center] au 1-877-2INTAKE (877-246-8253). Si vous croyez être un citoyen des États-Unis ou la victime d'un crime, veuillez en aviser le DHS en appelant le centre d'assistance des forces de l'ordre de l'ICE [ICE Law Enforcement Support Center] au numéro gratuit (855) 448-6903.

AVISO AO DETENTO

O Departamento de Segurança Nacional (DHS) emitiu uma ordem de custódia imigratória em seu nome. Este documento é um aviso enviado às agências de imposição da lei de que o DHS pretende assumir a custódia da sua pessoa, caso seja liberado. O DHS pediu que a agência de imposição da lei encarregada da sua atual detenção mantenha-o sob custódia durante, no máximo, 48 horas (excluindo-se sábados, domingos e feriados) após o período em que seria liberado pelas autoridades estaduais ou municipais de imposição da lei, de acordo com as respectivas acusações e penas criminais. Se o DHS não assumir a sua custódia durante essas 48 horas adicionais, excluindo-se os fins de semana e feriados, você deverá entrar em contato com o seu custodiante (a agência de imposição da lei ou qualquer outra entidade que esteja detendo-o no momento) para obter informações sobre sua liberação da custódia estadual ou municipal. Caso você tenha alguma reclamação a fazer sobre esta ordem de custódia imigratória ou relacionada a violações dos seus direitos ou liberdades civis decorrente das atividades do DHS, entre em contato com o Centro de Entrada Conjunta da Agência de Controle de Imigração e Alfândega (ICE) pelo telefone 1-877-246-8253. Se você acreditar que é um cidadão dos EUA ou está sendo vítima de um crime, informe o DHS ligando para o Centro de Apoio à Imposição da Lei do ICE pelo telefone de ligação gratuita (855) 448-6903.
THÔNG BÁO CHO NGƯỜI BỊ GIÁM GIỮ


Information Only
Addendum C
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
IMMIGRATION DETAINER - NOTICE OF ACTION

Subject ID:                      File No:
Event #:                      Date:

TO: (Name and Title of Institution - OR Any Subsequent Law Enforcement Agency)

FROM: (Department of Homeland Security Office Address)

MAINTAIN CUSTODY OF ALIEN FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED 48 HOURS

Name of Alien: ____________________________

Date of Birth: ____________________________ Nationality: ____________________________ Sex: ____________________________

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) HAS TAKEN THE FOLLOWING ACTION RELATED TO THE PERSON IDENTIFIED ABOVE, CURRENTLY IN YOUR CUSTODY:

☐ Initiated an investigation to determine whether this person is subject to removal from the United States.

☐ Initiated removal proceedings and served a Notice to Appear or other charging document. A copy of the charging document is attached and was served on _______________________(Date).

☐ Served a warrant of arrest for removal proceedings. A copy of the warrant is attached and was served on _______________________(Date).

☐ Obtained an order of deportation or removal from the United States for this person.

This action does not limit your discretion to make decisions related to this person's custody classification, work, quarter assignments, or other matters. DHS discourages dismissing criminal charges based on the existence of a detainer.

IT IS REQUESTED THAT YOU:

☐ Maintain custody of the subject for a period NOT TO EXCEED 48 HOURS, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, beyond the time when the subject would have otherwise been released from your custody to allow DHS to take custody of the subject. This request flows from federal regulation 8 C.F.R. § 287.7, which provides that a law enforcement agency “shall maintain custody of an alien” once a detainer has been issued by DHS. You are not authorized to hold the subject beyond these 48 hours. As early as possible prior to the time you otherwise would release the subject, please notify the Department by calling during business hours or _________________________ after hours or in an emergency. If you cannot reach a Department Official at these numbers, please contact the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Law Enforcement Support Center in Burlington, Vermont at: (802) 872-6020.

☐ Provide a copy to the subject of this detainer.

☐ Notify this office of the time of release at least 30 days prior to release or as far in advance as possible.

☐ Notify this office in the event of the inmate's death, hospitalization or transfer to another institution.

☐ Consider this request for a detainer operative only upon the subject's conviction.

☐ Cancel the detainer previously placed by this Office on _________________________(Date).

_________________________________________  ________________________________________
(Name and Title of Immigration Officer)        (Signature of Immigration Officer)

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY CURRENTLY HOLDING THE SUBJECT OF THIS NOTICE:

Please provide the information below, sign, and return to the Department using the envelope enclosed for your convenience or by faxing a copy to _______________________. You should maintain a copy for your own records so you may track the case and not hold the subject beyond the 48-hour period.

Local Booking or Inmate # ____________________________ Date of latest criminal charge/conviction: ____________________________

Last criminal charge/conviction: ____________________________ Estimated release date: ____________________________

Notice: Once in our custody, the subject of this detainer may be removed from the United States. If the individual may be the victim of a crime, or if you want this individual to remain in the United States for prosecution or other law enforcement purposes, including acting as a witness, please notify the ICE Law Enforcement Support Center at (802) 872-6020.

_________________________________________  ________________________________________
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Bộ Quốc Phòng (DHS) đã có lệnh giam giữ quý vị vì lý do di trú. Lệnh giam giữ vì lý do di trú là thông báo của DHS cho các cơ quan thi hành luật pháp là DHS có ý định tạm giữ quý vị sau khi quý vị được thả. DHS đã yêu cầu cơ quan thi hành luật pháp hiện đang giữ quý vị phải tiếp tục tạm giữ quý vị trong khoảng quá 48 giờ đồng hồ (không kể thứ Bảy, Chủ nhật, và các ngày nghỉ lễ) ngoài thời gian mà lại ra quý vị sẽ được cơ quan thi hành luật pháp của tiểu bang hoặc địa phương thả ra dựa trên các bản án và tội hình sự của quý vị. Nếu DHS không tạm giữ quý vị trong thời gian 48 giờ bố sung đó, không tính các ngày cuối tuần hoặc ngày lễ, quý vị nên liên lạc với bên giam giữ quý vị (cơ quan thi hành luật pháp hoặc tổ chức khác hiện đang giữ quý vị) để hỏi về việc cơ quan địa phương hoặc liên bang thả quý vị ra. Nếu quý vị có khiếu nại về lệnh giam giữ này hoặc liên lạc với cơ quan thời gian tạm giữ quý vị, vui lòng liên lạc với ICE Joint Intake Center tại số 1-877-2INTAKE (877-246-8253). Nếu quý vị tin rằng quý vị là công dân Hoa Kỳ hoặc nạn nhân tội phạm, vui lòng báo cho DHS biết bằng cách gọiICE Law Enforcement Support Center tại số điện thoại miễn phí (855) 448-6903.

对被拘留者的通告

美国国土安全部（DHS）已发出对你的移民监禁令。移民监禁令是美国国土安全部用来通告执法当局，表示美国国土安全部意图在你可能从当前的拘留被释放后继续拘留你的通知单。美国国土安全部已经向当前拘留你的执法当局要求，根据对你的刑事起诉或判罪的基础，在本州或地方执法当局释放你时，继续拘留你，为期不超过 48 小时（星期六、星期天和假日除外）。如果美国国土安全部未在不计周末或假日的额外 48 小时期限内将你拘留，你应该联系你的监管单位（现在拘留你的执法当局或其他单位），询问关于你从州或地方执法单位被释放的事宜。如果你对于这项拘留或关于美国国土安全部的行动所涉及的违反民权或公民自由权有任何投诉，请联系美国移民及海关执法局联合接纳中心（ICE Joint Intake Center），电话号码是 1-877-2INTAKE (877-246-8253)。如果你相信你是美国公民或犯罪被害人，请联系美国移民及海关执法局的执法支援中心（ICE Law Enforcement Support Center），告知美国国土安全部。该执法支援中心的免费电话号码是 (855) 448-6903。