



# SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A TRADITION OF SERVICE SINCE 1856

**Date:** December 7, 2016  
**To:** All Personnel  
**From:** Sheriff Carlos G. Bolanos  
**Subject:** Sheriff's Office Policy on Immigration Enforcement

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The Sheriff's Office has a long and proud history of building strong relationships of mutual respect and trust with the community members that we serve, regardless of their immigration status. We have a significant interest in ensuring that they trust us and feel confident that they may report acts of suspected criminal activity and/or reach out to us for essential services without fear of being reported to immigration officials.

Given recent community concerns regarding a possible increase in immigration enforcement activity, I want to ensure that all Sheriff's Office employees clearly understand our existing policies and practices related to immigration enforcement.

Under federal law, federal immigration agencies and officials have primary jurisdiction and responsibility for the enforcement of immigration laws. Similarly, California state law leaves direct enforcement of immigration laws to federal agencies and officials. Consistent with this, and in recognition of the fact that the primary function of the Sheriff's Office is to enforce the laws of the state of California, the Sheriff's Office does not directly investigate or enforce immigration laws.

It is not the practice of Sheriff's Office personnel to inquire about, investigate, or report to Immigrations and Custom's Enforcement (ICE), an individual's immigration status. Further, the Sheriff's Office does not generally detain inmates past their scheduled release date without lawful authority. See Corrections Policy 4.09, ICE holds and Requests for Notification.

The Sheriff's Office will continue to cooperate with federal law enforcement officials to ensure public safety. All persons booked into our detention facilities have their fingerprints uploaded to a Department of Justice Database, which federal immigration officials may access for use in making a determination regarding an inmate's possible immigration status. Following this process, ICE may choose to issue to the Sheriff's Office a Request for Voluntary Notification of Release of Suspected Priority Alien. The Sheriff's Office will continue to respond to these requests with accurate and timely information providing the anticipated release date and time of an inmate. The Sheriff's Office will also continue to grant ICE agents access to our detention facilities to interview inmates and take appropriate enforcement activity, including taking custody of an inmate pursuant to federal law.

While the Sheriff's Office will be making relatively minor changes to its immigration related policies and practices to ensure consistency with recently passed state law, we do not anticipate any modifications to the determination that we will not directly enforce or investigate immigration laws, but will maintain cooperation with federal law enforcement officials.