

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Operational Ride-Along Guidance for Members of Congress and Staff

Purpose: ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) ride-alongs provide an opportunity for Members of Congress (Members) and their staff to see first-hand day-to-day ERO operations and to better understand the complexities involved in the preparation and execution of field operations.

Access: Members and congressional staff are afforded special access to observe ERO operations. Ride-alongs are limited to Members and congressional staff only; ICE will not accommodate special access for mixed groups. To preclude potential delays, Members shall be prepared to show valid identification identifying him/her as a Member of Congress. Congressional staff shall be prepared to show valid congressional identification issued by either the House or Senate Sergeant at Arms Identification Office. All other requests for ride-alongs (e.g., media representatives, local officials, non-governmental organizations, members of the public, etc.) should be directed to the ICE Field Office with jurisdiction over the area of interest for coordination and approval.

Conduct: Safety, security, and good order are always primary considerations in operational settings. All ride-along participants are expected to comply with rules, procedures, and instructions from ICE personnel participating in the operation. In the event of an emergency, ICE personnel will provide further instructions.

Recording Devices: For operational safety and security, and to protect the privacy rights of those involved in the operation—including those taken into custody—use of electronic recording devices or picture taking during the ride-along is strictly prohibited without advanced written approval of the operations lead and the appropriate ICE Field Office Director.

Weapons: No weapons of any kind—to include knives, sprays, or firearms—are permitted to be carried by non-law enforcement personnel participating in a ride-along.

Hatch Act: ICE employees may not authorize the use of ICE resources (personnel, vehicles, etc.) for political activities, which is defined as activities directed towards the success or failure of a political party, candidate for partisan political office, or partisan political group. This includes town hall meetings, political rallies, speeches, fundraisers, press conferences, photo opportunities, or other similar events for campaign purposes. No media, photographers, campaign pins, distribution of campaign literature, campaign consultants, or campaign volunteers will be permitted during a ride-along. Note: this restriction is not intended to impede elected officials from appropriately representing their constituents.

Ride-Along Duration: The duration of a ride-along is based on operational requirements and vary from day-to-day. Generally, ride-alongs start early in the day (between 4:00 am and 6:00 am) and end before mid-day (between 9:00 am and 11:00 am).

Detained Noncitizen Interaction: ICE will not allow or facilitate any interaction with noncitizens detained during a field operation. If Members and/or congressional staff would like to meet with a specific detainee or set of detainees following a field operation, please provide names, alien registration numbers, and valid, signed privacy releases with your request. Note: ICE is unable to provide interpreter or translations services.