

# Immigration

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## Overview

The Stockton Police Department (SPD) is committed to building trust, keeping our communities safe, and complying with state laws. This page explains how the Department handles situations involving immigration, the laws and policies that guide our officers, and how SPD communicates about these matters.

**Stockton Police does not enforce federal immigration law.**

**Disclaimer:** *The information on this page is for educational and informational purposes only. For legal assistance, please contact an attorney.*

## Legal Guidelines

[California Senate Bill 54](#) prohibits Stockton Police Officers from investigating, detaining, or arresting people solely based on their immigration status. Stockton Police officers do not ask about immigration status, do not participate in immigration enforcement task forces, and do not assist with immigration arrests.

..."Officers shall not inquire into an individual's immigration status for immigration enforcement purposes." (Government Code § 7284.6)

Refer to [SPD Policy - 414 Immigration Violations](#), as it outlines Stockton Police officer requirements related to undocumented persons.

## Calls For Emergency Assistance

Stockton Police officers have an obligation to provide emergency assistance to members of the public and all law enforcement agencies, including those conducting immigration enforcement operations.

## What Senate Bill 54 (SB54) Allows

SB54 allows Stockton Police Officers to respond when federal authorities call for emergency help, even if federal immigration agents are present. Our involvement is limited to addressing violations of California state law or threats to public safety. **Our focus is on ensuring a safe environment, not enforcing immigration law.**

Stockton Police is oftentimes not aware of immigration enforcement operations happening in our city ahead of time, and officers may not have a complete picture of what has occurred when we receive a 9-1-1 call, either from a community member or a federal agent.



Safe communities require effective policing built on trust and cooperation between residents and officers. Fear of immigration status should never prevent community members from engaging with the Stockton Police Department (SPD).

California Senate Bill 54 prohibits SPD officers from investigating, detaining or arresting people solely based on their immigration status.



### Q: Are Immigration Inquiries Prohibited?

A: Officers shall not inquire into an individual's immigration status for immigration enforcement purposes (Government Code § 7284.6).

### Q: Can I be deported by SPD if I report a crime or call for help?

A: No. The mission of SPD is to investigate crimes that have occurred, regardless of the victim's or offender's immigration status.

### Q: Can I go to a police station to ask questions or report something without fear of being detained?

A: Yes. Everyone is welcome to seek assistance at police stations. Your presence at a police station will be safe and respected.

### Q: Can I be deported by SPD during a routine traffic stop or call for help?

A: No. SPD does not enforce federal immigration laws. Officers from SPD are prohibited from asking about a person's immigration status during routine traffic stops or calls for service.



California Attorney General Rob Bonta issued an [Information Bulletin in January 2025](#) for law enforcement agencies about SB54, which contains the following guidance:

*"Nothing in the Values Act prohibits a California law enforcement agency from asserting its own jurisdiction over criminal law enforcement matters... This includes circumstances in which an officer is responding to a call for service involving a violation of a state criminal law or during an immigration enforcement action where the safety of the public or a law enforcement officer, including an immigration enforcement officer, is in danger."*

## Federal Law

[Federal law says](#), "no one, including local police, can interfere with federal agents doing their job. Under the Supremacy Clause, federal laws generally supersede local or state laws."

## Public Communication

Stockton Police takes pride in communicating transparently and efficiently regarding crime and safety issues in our city. When the Stockton Police Department receives a call for emergency assistance that is related to immigration enforcement, we will:

- Provide information, as available, to elected officials regarding the date and location of the incident, Stockton Police's purpose for involvement, and the timeline of our involvement (time of arrival, departure, etc)
- Provide information, as available, when requested by the media

### Stockton Police will not:

Provide information on the federal investigation, including the nature of the case, subjects involved, or outcomes. We will only provide information about the Department's involvement.

There may be instances when Stockton Police operations are misidentified as immigration enforcement (warrant service, task force activity, SWAT operations, etc.). In these cases, officers are encouraged to clarify that the incident is a Stockton Police operation unrelated to immigration enforcement, if asked by the community or media.

### Locating a person:

- If an individual has been arrested for an immigration-related civil violation, they are typically held in an immigration detention facility. Family members can locate individuals in immigration custody through the following online resource: [Immigration Custody Locator](#).
- If an individual has been arrested for a criminal offense — including criminal immigration violations — they are generally held under the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service or the Bureau of Prisons. These individuals can be located via the following link: [Federal Inmate Locator](#).

### Sources:

- [El Concilio](#)

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**Q: If an officer discovers I'm an undocumented immigrant, will the officer arrest me for a violation of a federal immigration law?**

**A:** No. SPD policy prohibits officers from arresting or booking an individual on suspicion of violating federal immigration laws.

**Q: Does SPD interview arrested persons to determine their immigration status?**

**A:** No. Under state law, Department personnel are prohibited from investigating or interrogating a person for civil immigration purposes.

**Q: If I call the police, will they share my information with ICE?**

**A:** No. Law enforcement agencies in California are committed to protecting your privacy and safety.

**Q: Will officers show up at schools, hospitals, or churches to arrest someone for immigration reasons?**

**A:** No. These are considered sensitive locations. Protecting community trust and access to essential services is a top priority.

**Q: Does SPD assist ICE with immigration enforcement operations?**

**A:** No. We may participate in federal task force operations to apprehend offenders for serious offenses, not related solely to immigration status.

**Q: Can law enforcement detain someone for ICE if requested?**

**A:** No. California law prohibits police from detaining individuals based solely on an ICE detainer request unless there is a valid judicial warrant or the person meets specific criteria under state law.

**Q: Do police conduct immigration raids or work at checkpoints with ICE?**

**A:** No. California police agencies do not conduct immigration raids or participate in operations with ICE targeting undocumented individuals.

