

UUFH Safety Policy

Guidelines for Interactions with Immigration Enforcement Officers

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington (UUFH) is committed to providing a safe and welcoming space for all individuals, regardless of immigration status. This policy establishes guidelines for interactions with immigration enforcement officers to ensure the protection of our community members and uphold our values.

1. Non-Consent to Entry

- Immigration enforcement officers, including but not limited to agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP), do not have UUFH's consent to enter any part of our property—including the building, parking lot, and grounds—unless they provide proper legal authorization.

2. Required Documentation for Entry

- The only paperwork UUFH must acknowledge is a judicial warrant signed by a judge.
- An administrative warrant (e.g., ICE Form I-200 or I-205) does not grant lawful authority to enter the property without consent.
- Even when presented with a judicial warrant, a designated individual (such as legal counsel) will be the only authorized person to review and accept it.

3. Response to Immigration Officers

- If an immigration officer arrives at UUFH, staff or community leaders should:
 1. Immediately contact a member of the Safety Committee.
 2. Politely ask the officer(s) to remain outside while verifying their documentation.
 3. Request to see a judicial warrant and decline to acknowledge any administrative warrants. Michael Goldsmith can help us review warrants: 917-673-0155. See general guidelines for judicial warrants on the next page.
 4. Respond with a rote statement, such as:
 - "I am not authorized to accept this document, and I'm going to have to ask you to leave this property."
 5. Document the interaction, including names, badge numbers, time of arrival, and details of the request.
 6. Film the interaction for documentation and legal purposes.

4. Public Events

- Immigration officers, like any other individuals, may enter UUFH property during public events.

- However, as owners of the property, UUFH reserves the right to request that any individual, including immigration officers, leave the premises if their presence is deemed disruptive or unwelcome.

5. Safe Spaces

“Law enforcement, including immigration officers, cannot enter private, non-public areas without a judicial warrant or the consent of the property owner/occupant.”

—ACLU, *Sanctuary Congregation Toolkit*

“Organizations may create ‘restricted areas’ clearly marked as private; ICE has no authority to enter without consent or a judicial warrant.”

—NILC, *Sensitive Locations & Enforcement Guidance*

UUFH, like all religious institutions, has the legal right to identify certain areas of the building as private, non-public spaces. These are areas not open to the general public, such as offices, counseling rooms, classrooms when not in use, staff work areas, and other clearly marked “Staff Only” or “Private” rooms.

Under federal law and Fourth Amendment protections, immigration enforcement officers may not enter private, non-public areas without either:

1. A judicial warrant signed by a judge, or
2. Explicit consent from the property owner or an authorized representative.

Administrative ICE warrants (Forms I-200/I-205), which are signed by ICE officers—not judges—do not grant entry into private spaces.

Designating private areas strengthens UUFH’s ability to refuse entry lawfully and clearly. If agents enter the building during a public event or approach the premises, congregants and vulnerable individuals can be directed into these private areas while staff confirm whether officers possess a judicial warrant. Staff may lawfully say:

“This is a private area. You do not have consent to enter without a judicial warrant.”

It is important to understand that these private spaces do not override a valid judicial warrant and do not provide absolute immunity from enforcement actions. However, they do create meaningful legal protections, reduce the risk of improper entry, and give the congregation clearer procedures to follow during an encounter with immigration officers.

Sources:

- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
- National Immigration Law Center (NILC)
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Forms I-200/I-205
- U.S. ICE/CBP Sensitive Locations Memorandum (2011, reaffirmed 2017)
- Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Sanctuary Toolkit (2017–2023)
- UUSC Migration Justice Guidance
- UUA Immigration Justice resources

Private Area

Not Open to the Public



This space is private and not open to the public.
Entry is limited to UU FH staff, volunteers, and authorized personnel.
All others must receive explicit permission before entering.



JUDICIAL WARRANT CHECKLIST FOR CHURCHES

Use this checklist to determine whether a warrant presented by officers is a valid **judicial warrant** that authorizes entry into your church. If any of these items are missing or incorrect, you do not have to allow entry.



Issuing Authority

The warrant must state the name of a court (not an agency like DHS or ICE).



Judge's Signature

It must be signed by a judge or magistrate with the legal authority to issue judicial warrants.



Probable Cause Shown

There must be a sworn affidavit showing probable cause - this is what gives the judge the legal basis to issue the warrant.



Named Law Enforcement Agency

The warrant should state which agency is authorized to carry it out.



Specific Person or Premises

The warrant must clearly describe the exact or individual or individual to be searched. No vague or general description.



Specific Items or Evidence Sought

It must list what the officers are looking for, not just a general search.



Time Frame for Execution

There should be a clear expiration date (often within 10 days of issuance) and possibly limitations on the time of day it can be executed.



Correct Address or Individual

Double-check that the name and/or address matches your church or the person in question exactly.



Scope of Search Clearly Limited

The warrant should specify the areas they are allowed to search (e.g., one room vs. entire building)



Valid Date and Time

The warrant must be current - not expired or issued long ago.

[Example of a Judicial Warrant](#)



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