

FACT SHEET:
The Illinois TRUST Act Supports Public Safety

SUMMARY

In 2017, Illinois enacted the bipartisan [TRUST Act](#) to enable state and local law enforcement to protect public safety and ensure all members of the public, regardless of immigration status, feel comfortable calling law enforcement to seek help, report crimes, and cooperate in investigations. The TRUST Act prevents state and local law enforcement from assisting the federal government with civil immigration enforcement but allows coordination when there is a federal criminal warrant.

In 2021, Governor Pritzker [signed the Illinois Way Forward Act](#) to strengthen the TRUST Act through a number of additions, including authorizing the Attorney General to investigate violations, prohibiting state or local governments from signing contracts with the federal government to detain immigrants, and prohibiting officials from asking about the citizenship or immigration status of an individual in custody unless required by law.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MANAGES IMMIGRATION, NOT STATES

- Deportation and removal proceedings are matters of federal civil law, not criminal law.
- The TRUST Act complies with federal law and does not obstruct federal immigration actions.
- In Illinois, the TRUST Act requires immigration enforcement to be carried out by federal law enforcement.
- The TRUST Act prohibits state and local law enforcement from participating or assisting in the enforcement of federal civil immigration law. State and local law enforcement have no authority to arrest or detain an individual based on a civil immigration warrant or detainer request.
- Illinois and other states must continue to operate within a broken immigration system. The federal government is solely responsible for the execution of immigration policy and activities.

FOCUSING LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ON PUBLIC SAFETY

- To ensure state and local law enforcement spend their time and resources on protecting public safety, it is important that all members of the public – regardless of immigration status – feel comfortable calling 911 or reporting crimes to the police.
- Therefore, the TRUST ACT prohibits state and local law enforcement from:
 - Stopping, arresting, searching, or detaining a person based on citizenship or immigration status, or transferring/detaining a person on behalf of a federal immigration agent.
 - Permitting immigration agents to use facilities, equipment, or databases for investigations or enforcement.
 - Providing information in response to any immigration agent's request for information regarding any individual in custody or provide information not otherwise available to public.
 - Detaining an individual after their release date on behalf of immigration authorities.
- State and local law enforcement can still provide assistance when presented with a federal criminal warrant.

FOLLOWING THE LAW

- The TRUST Act requires law enforcement agencies to annually report requests from federal immigration authorities to assist in civil enforcement operations to the Illinois Attorney General's Office, as outlined in their [guidance](#) for law enforcement.
- The Attorney General may investigate alleged violations and has authority to file an action in circuit court seeking declaratory, injunctive, or any other equitable relief against any law enforcement agency, law enforcement official, or other person or entity who violates the TRUST Act.