



You are cordially invited to

Assisting immigrants "imprisoned" and their families

Event Date: September 21, 2026, at 10:00 AM

Critical issues facing detained immigrants and their families will be discussed.

Linus Chan, Professor of Clinical Law, Director of Detainee Rights Clinic, James H. Binger Center for New Americans, University of Minnesota Law School

Scott Whitman, Immigration Attorney

Andy Whitman, FLG, UMRA Facilitator.

awhitman@umn.edu , or text [612 -747- 6015](tel:612-747-6015).

Up-to-date information is below

Visitation, letter writing, and help with releases.

From Linus Chan, Professor of Clinical Law, Director of Detainee Rights Clinic, UMN.

<https://conversationswithfriendsmn.org/>

Release, accompaniment

Haven Watch, <https://havenwatch.org/>

Court Observation Project

https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/immigration_court

Legal Services Organization Working with Detained Immigrant

ILCM

https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/immigration_court

Mid Minnesota Legal Aid, <https://mylegalaid.org/>

Advocates for Human Rights, <https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/>

For Direct Involvement with getting people released

Habeas Project

<https://law.umn.edu/magazine/spring-2026/james-h-binger-center-new-americans-and-partners-launch-minnesota-habeas>

For Private attorneys you can use the AILA lawyer finder

<https://ailalawyer.com/>

For community clinics where people can speak to lawyers in the Twin Cities Area

<https://www.lawhelpmn.org/immigration-legal-help>

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[Updated data show more than 2,300 arrested during ICE surge were deported or left country](#) More than 2,300 non-citizens arrested in Minnesota during Operation Metro Surge were later deported or left the country, according to newly updated data.

[Immigration enforcement in Minnesota](#)

[Judge blocks DHS from acting against a man over a harsh email to an ICE official](#)

ICE agents turned up at David Streever's home over a harsh email he sent to an ICE official. Now a court order prevents the federal government from making additional threats against him.

[Sen. Tina Smith on the Somali man arrested by ICE and held at Guantanamo Bay](#)

Sen. Tina Smith weighed in on the situation of Adam Abdullah, a Somali man who was detained during Operation Metro Surge and is being held at Guantanamo Bay.

Miranda Morgan Lilla, State Director for U.S. Senator Tina Smith will join us via zoom.

[Updated data show more than 2,300 arrested during ICE surge were deported or left country](#)



4:13 PM

[Immigration enforcement in Minnesota](#)

More than 2,300 non-citizens arrested in Minnesota during Operation Metro Surge were later deported or left the country, according to newly updated data.

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[Judge blocks DHS from acting against a man over a harsh email to an ICE official](#)



6:35 AM

[Crime, Law and Justice](#)

ICE agents turned up at David Streever's home over a harsh email he sent to an ICE official. Now a court order prevents the federal government from making additional threats against him.

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<https://www.mprnews.org/>

[Sen. Tina Smith on the Somali man arrested by ICE and held at Guantanamo Bay](#)



7:11 PM

[All Things Considered](#)

Sen. Tina Smith weighed in on the situation of Adam Abdullah, a Somali man who was detained during Operation Metro Surge and is being held at Guantanamo Bay.

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September 17, 2026 1:25 PM

[MN organization plans to launch 20 'democracy protection centers' ahead of midterms](#)

Community leaders from COPAL are leveraging what they've learned after this winter's federal surge and building out a network of constitutional observers to create a network of "democracy protectors."

by [Nina Moini](#) and [Ngoc Bui](#)

Listen [9:36]

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MN organization plans to launch 20 'democracy protection centers' ahead of midterms

Nina Moini and Ngoc Bui, September 17, 2026 1:25 PM.

COPAL, an organization centered on supporting Latino communities across the state, launched the Immigrant Defense Network, or IDN, last year. IDN trained some 30,000 constitutional observers to document and record interactions between ICE and Minnesotans during the surge.

Now, they're leveraging the learnings to train "democracy protectors."

Francisco Segovia, executive director of COPAL, shared more about the initiative on Minnesota Now.

COPAL Minnesota

<https://copalmn.org> › [about](#) › [contact](#)

(612) 255-3112 info@copalmn.org Monday: 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 8:30. Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (612) 255-3112.

At COPAL, we can connect you with other trusted sites to help you prepare your taxes. Call our Navigator Line at (612) 255-3112 today. [Learn More](#). Taxes ...

<https://www.vlnmn.org/volunteer/>

Immigration

Immigration briefing: How fear of immigration sweeps keeps migrant kids from doctors by Vanessa Romo, Scott Simon 09/19/26

<https://www.npr.org/2026/09/19/nx-s1-5973125/immigration-briefing-how-fear-of-immigration-sweeps-keeps-migrant-kids-from-doctors>

When someone dies in ICE detention, who actually tells their family- and what does that process look like? Also, pediatricians say immigration sweeps are keeping migrant kids away from the doctor.

SCOTT SIMON, HOST:

From now through the November elections NPR's reporters are bringing us the immigration briefing. That's a weekly look at the administration's ongoing nationwide crackdown.

(SOUNDBITE OF MUSIC)

SIMON: This week, what happens after someone dies in an ICE detention facility? And who gives their loved ones answers about what happened? Also, pediatricians are raising alarm that these immigration sweeps may be keeping migrant children from getting healthcare. NPR's Vanessa Romo joins us. Vanessa, thanks so much for being with us.

VANESSA ROMO, BYLINE: Hi, Scott.

SIMON: Pediatricians report the immigration crackdown might be putting migrant children in jeopardy. What did doctors find?

ROMO: A new national survey from the American Academy of Pediatrics found that 40% of pediatricians say they've noticed families staying away from care due to fears that they'll be detained. Another 30 say immigrant parents are reluctant about applying for public health services and support. They've also noticed that there are families in their practices who are avoiding sending their children to school. Here's Dr. Lee Beers. She's the chief medical officer of the association.

LEE BEERS: They can receive health services within the school. They can receive mental health services within the school. It's a place where they have strong relationships with caring and supportive adults who can help identify if perhaps there's an emerging health issue or an emerging mental health issue.

ROMO: And there are worries that it could get even worse after the administration proposed new changes to public benefit rules this week.

SIMON: Vanessa, another story you've been looking at - the number of deaths that happen in ICE detention facilities and the battle that families often face to find answers about what happened to their loved ones. What can you tell us?

ROMO: So far, according to the Department of Homeland Security, there have been 57 migrants who have died while in the government's care during Trump's current term, usually in ICE detention facilities. And nearly all of the families I've spoken with are left with a slew of questions about what exactly happened.

You know, their loved ones were living out in the world, even those with serious medical ailments were living relatively normal lives before they were picked up by ICE. And once they were taken into detention, their health rapidly deteriorates, and then some of them die in custody - in many instances, in a matter of days or weeks. Meanwhile, the families are left shattered, and when they ask for answers or an explanation, they often find that they're stonewalled by ICE, DHS and the for-profit private companies that are running the detention facilities.

There's actually no federal law that requires ICE to tell a family when a loved one dies, is hospitalized or has a medical emergency in custody. That gap is why two House members - both Democrats - introduced the Families Deserve to Know Act this year after visiting a New Jersey detention facility where a man died, and his mother says she never heard from ICE at all.

SIMON: And you've talked to families in this situation, haven't you?

ROMO: Yes. I've been speaking with Mariel Garcia (ph) from Northridge, California. Her father, who had a legal work permit, was picked up by ICE while he was on his bicycle on his way to a car wash where he worked. This was in October of last year. She spoke to him one time that same day after he'd been taken into a temporary holding facility. Here's what she says he told her.

MARIEL GARCIA: Immigration got me. Like, I'm already going to Mexico. See you over there. But he sounded fine, and I told him, no, don't sign anything. But he was already - like, in his head, like, he was already going to go back to Mexico. And then after that, I never heard back from him.

ROMO: The next time she heard anything about him was more than a week later. Officials from Adelanto ICE Processing Center, about an hour and a half outside of Los Angeles, called her to tell her that her father was near death at a nearby hospital. He'd been transferred there less than 24 hours after arriving at Adelanto. When she got to the hospital, she says he had a mouthful of broken teeth. His tongue looked like it had been bleeding, and he had facial scabs. And she says no one, to this day, has explained why he was in that condition.

SIMON: What has the family discovered about what happened to him?

ROMO: Not much yet. Garcia filed a lawsuit against ICE and The GEO Group, the company that operates Adelanto. Nearly a year later, it looks like the family is finally getting access to internal records from the detention center, any video and audio recordings that may exist and her father's medical records. Her lawyer, Jesus Arias, told me it's been a long slog.

JESUS ARIAS: That's the reason why we have to bring lawsuits. We have to do this on behalf of the family. Otherwise, the families are basically left in limbo without any information, without reasons, without the answers to why their loved one died in custody.

ROMO: The GEO Group referred us to ICE. In a statement to NPR, ICE said it takes the health and safety and well-being of all detainees in its custody seriously. The agency added that it follows established procedures for notifying the detainee's next of kin and conducts required reviews and reporting. But, you know, the Garcia case is not unique. There are dozens of families we've heard from who've all experienced the same frustrations with ICE and DHS' lack of transparency after a loved one's sudden death.

SIMON: NPR's Vanessa Romo with this week's immigration briefing. Vanessa, thanks so much.

ROMO: Thank you, Scott.

(SOUNDBITE OF ALLAH-LAS' "HOUSTON")