



Dannel P. Malloy
GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

February 28, 2017

Dear State Funded Early Care and Education Program Administrators,

This letter and the attached documents provide guidance for state funded early care and education programs about how best to support children, how to respond to attempts on facility grounds to question a child's immigration status or to obtain other information about children or their families, and how to provide educational resources for immigrant families regarding their rights.

We know that both real and perceived threats against undocumented persons and mixed-status families may be causing trauma for families that affects their well-being. We understand local concerns that some families might keep children out of early care and education programs due to fear of immigration raids and deportation.

It is our understanding that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is at this time continuing to follow the prior administration's "sensitive locations" policy, under which "known and licensed daycares, pre-schools and other early learning programs" are generally treated as off limits for ICE enforcement activities, though there are some exceptions. Resources concerning this policy are included with this letter. We will of course inform you if we learn new information about this policy.

We encourage you to consider having a plan in place in the event that ICE agents come to one of your facilities requesting information about or access to a child. In developing a plan for your facility or region, you should consult with an attorney. Please also consider implementing a protocol for handling requests and visits from ICE, possibly to include the following steps:

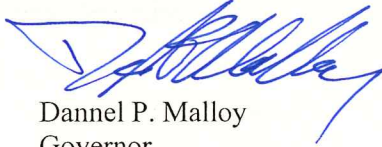
1. If an ICE agent approaches a facility asking for child information or for access to a child, that agent should be referred to the office of an appropriate administrator.
2. Generally, the administrator or designee should immediately contact the program's or school readiness council's attorney before taking any action or providing any information in response to a request or visit from an ICE agent. The administrator or designee should ask the ICE agent to state the reason and authority for the visit, whether the sensitive locations policy is being followed, and, if so, why the sensitive locations policy permits the visit.
3. The administrator or designee should ask the ICE agent to confirm that the agent has a warrant and to show the warrant. If the agent does not have a warrant, the administrator or designee should decline entry.

4. If the agent does have a warrant, the administrator or designee should review it carefully to determine exactly what it authorizes ICE to do, and who issued it. Please note that, depending on the situation, ICE agents may have "administrative warrants" that are not court orders signed by a judge. Administrators should **not** assume that an ICE agent has the authority to enter facilities or obtain information or records based on an administrative warrant. In planning for interactions with ICE, programs and councils should consult with their attorneys about these issues.

Additionally, please consider making resources translated into multiple languages available to families informing them of their rights regarding immigration and connecting them with legal and social services that are available within your community.

Thank you for your attention and urgency in making sure Connecticut children and families feel welcomed, respected, and valued in our state funded early care and education facilities. We are happy to answer any questions you have about these matters.

Sincerely,



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor



Linda Goodman
Acting Commissioner, Office of Early Childhood