

ICE at Hotels: What You Need to Know

Whether you're a hotel guest, staff member, or manager, understanding the boundaries of ICE access is essential for protecting privacy and rights.

PUBLIC vs. PRIVATE SPACES

ICE can access public areas (lobby, parking, restaurants) without a warrant. However, guest rooms are protected like private homes under the Fourth Amendment. ICE CANNOT enter without a judicial warrant signed by a federal judge or explicit consent from the guest.

WHAT DOCUMENTS MATTER?

- Judicial warrant (judge-signed) = Valid for entry and records
- Administrative warrants or ICE detainers = NOT enough for room access
- Hotels can always verify documentation with legal counsel before allowing entry to protected areas.

INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

- Right to remain silent and refuse to answer questions or discuss immigration status
- Right to refuse entry without judicial warrant
- Right to ask, "Am I being detained?" If the answer is no, you can leave
- Don't have to open your door. Ask for a warrant to be slid underneath

GUEST RECORDS ARE PRIVATE



Hotels should NOT provide guest names, room numbers, IDs, payment info, or surveillance footage without proper legal process (subpoena, court order, or judicial warrant).

EMPLOYEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Never volunteer information, confirm guest presence, or provide room keys without management approval and proper documentation. ICE is not allowed to question or detain employees or guests without a judicial warrant. Front of house staff encountering ICE may say, "I'm not authorized to provide access or information. Please speak with the manager or owner." Management should not allow ICE in private areas. Document ICE agents and actions. Call legal counsel immediately.

FOR MANAGERS

Prepare now by designating a point person, training staff on valid documents, establishing clear protocols, and documenting all ICE interactions thoroughly. Create an ICE response policy, limit staff access to guest data, coordinate with corporate legal/compliance teams.

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