



PUBLIC INFORMATION GUIDE

Evanston Police Response to Federal Civil Immigration Enforcement Activity

The Evanston Police Department understands that reports of federal immigration enforcement activity can cause fear, confusion, and concern in the community. This guide explains, in general terms, how Evanston Police respond when officers receive calls about possible activity involving federal immigration agencies such as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

This document is intended to help residents understand the Evanston Police Department's role, the limits on local police authority, and what community members can expect when officers respond to these incidents.

Evanston Police Department's Role

The Evanston Police Department does not enforce federal civil immigration law.

When officers respond to a report involving possible federal civil immigration enforcement activity, their role is focused on:

- Protecting life and public safety
- Documenting what is reported or observed
- Managing crowd or traffic safety issues when needed
- Notifying supervisors and department leadership

Evanston Police officers are not present to assist with civil immigration enforcement operations.

What Evanston Police Will NOT Do

Under Illinois law, City ordinance, and department policy, Evanston Police officers do not take part in federal civil immigration enforcement. That means Evanston Police officers will not:

- Arrest or keep someone in custody only because of an immigration hold or administrative immigration warrant
- Stop, search, or arrest someone only because they are suspected of being in the country illegally
- Assist with civil immigration enforcement operations



- Allow City facilities or City-controlled property to be used to support federal civil immigration enforcement activity
- Share private custody or release information to help civil immigration enforcement, unless the law requires it

What Evanston Police WILL Do When Called

When Evanston Police receive a call about possible federal civil immigration enforcement activity, officers and supervisors respond based on the facts reported at the time. The response may include:

- Assessing whether there is any immediate threat to life or safety
- Requesting or providing medical aid if needed
- Gathering information from witnesses
- Documenting involved vehicles and other observable facts
- Preserving available evidence, including video or digital evidence when appropriate
- Determining whether City property is being used in a prohibited way
- Attempting to identify any detainees, federal agents, and detention locations
- Notifying command staff and City leadership when required

If federal agents are still on scene, a supervisor may attempt to identify the agency involved and obtain basic information needed for documentation and safety purposes. However, Evanston Police personnel do not supervise or take control of federal operations.

Public Safety Comes First

Even when federal activity is involved, the Evanston Police Department's first responsibility is public safety. That may include:

- Protecting people from imminent harm
- Separating involved parties when necessary
- Stabilizing the scene
- Providing emergency medical assistance



- Making arrests when there is probable cause for a state or local criminal offense

If federal agents report that they have been assaulted, threatened, or are facing an immediate safety issue, Evanston Police may respond to that public safety incident. In those situations, the Evanston Police Department's role is still limited to addressing the reported threat, protecting life, and enforcing applicable state or local law. Evanston Police do not use those calls as a basis to assist with civil immigration enforcement itself.

Demonstrations and Crowd Events

Reports of federal immigration enforcement activity may sometimes lead to protests, demonstrations, or other crowd events.

When that happens, the Evanston Police Department's role is to:

- Protect lawful speech and peaceful assembly
- Prevent violence, injury, or property damage
- Maintain public safety
- Conduct traffic control
- Follow department policy for lawful speech and peaceful assembly (First Amendment) assemblies

Evanston Police personnel do not take action based on a person's viewpoint, message, or immigration status. Officers focus on safety, lawful conduct, and the rights of all involved.

Body-Worn Cameras and Documentation

Evanston Police officers responding to these incidents are generally required to activate body-worn cameras in accordance with Illinois law and department policy.

Supervisors are responsible for making sure a police report is completed when appropriate. Reports may include:

- The time and location of the incident
- Why police were called
- Witness statements
- Descriptions of vehicles or identifying features



- Any names and badge numbers provided by federal agents on scene, as well as the identities of any detained persons, if known
- Any reported injuries, property damage, or safety concerns
- Any observed or reported violations of state or local law
- Actions taken by Evanston Police personnel

This documentation helps ensure accountability, transparency, and consistency. All department recorded video from federal civil immigration incidents will be kept for three years.

City Property

City-owned property may not be used as a staging area, operations base, or support location for federal civil immigration enforcement activity.

If Evanston Police become aware of possible use of City property for that purpose, officers will document the information, notify supervisors, and elevate the matter through the appropriate City channels.

What Community Members Should Know

The laws and policies that apply to state and local police may be different from those that apply to federal law enforcement officers. As a result, conduct that may not be permitted for state or local officers may be permitted under federal law or policy.

During protest-related activity, all individuals are expected to conduct themselves lawfully. Peaceful expression is protected, but violence and unlawful acts may result in enforcement action and criminal charges.

Community members can expect Evanston Police to respond professionally, lawfully, and with a focus on safety for everyone..

The Evanston Police Department's role is not to assist with civil immigration enforcement. Instead, officers respond to:

- Protect life and safety
- Document reported activity
- Manage public safety concerns affecting the community

Residents should call 9-1-1 if there is an emergency or immediate danger. You can report non-urgent concerns to the Evanston Police Department by contacting the 24-hour non-emergency phone line at 847-866-5000.



Commitment to Lawful & Professional Response

The Evanston Police Department remains committed to serving the Evanston community in a manner that is lawful, professional, and consistent with City policy, Illinois law, and department policy. The department's response to reported federal civil immigration activity is guided by public safety, documentation, and respect for legal limits on local police authority. To support transparency and public trust, the Chief of Police will release a public after-action report after each documented federal civil immigration incident.