

From: [ICE Office of the Director](#)
Subject: Interim Guidance for Civil Immigration Enforcement and Removal Operations
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Message from Acting Director Tae D. Johnson

To All ICE Employees
February 18, 2021

Interim Guidance for Civil Immigration Enforcement and Removal Operations

As all of you know, on January 20, 2021, then-Acting Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary David Pekoske issued a memorandum that established interim guidelines for our enforcement and removal operations. The memorandum, directed to our agency, Customs and Border Protection, and United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, was titled *Review of and Interim Revision to Civil Immigration Enforcement and Removal Policies and Priorities* (Interim Memo). The Memorandum directed me to issue additional operating guidance.

Later today I am issuing operating guidance, which focuses the agency's limited resources on threats to national security, border security, and public safety.

As the guidance will make clear, it is effective immediately and until Secretary Mayorkas issues new civil immigration enforcement guidelines for the Department, which he expects to do in less than 90 days. Secretary Mayorkas has informed me that he will issue new guidelines only after engaging with you, with our agency leadership, and with the other relevant DHS agencies.

I have been authorized to revise certain aspects of the Interim Memo. The revisions are reflected in the additional operating guidance that will be issued today.

I look forward to learning from you as we implement the additional operating guidance and work together towards the new guidance that the Secretary will issue. I am proud to work with you as we execute our national security, border security, and public safety mission.

Tae D. Johnson
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement