

Bellevue College is committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive, and safe environment for all students, employees, and visitors. This FAQ guide explains what Bellevue College employees should do in situations involving federal immigration enforcement. It follows BC [policy 1510](#) and [procedure 1510P](#). Bellevue College adheres to state law and the [Keep Washington Working Act](#) and does not participate in the enforcement of federal immigration laws.

Employees should immediately refer all immigration enforcement agent inquiries to

Public Safety, B132
425-466-9365



Frequently Asked Questions

Can federal immigration agents come on campus to conduct immigration enforcement?

Yes. Federal immigration agents may enter public areas on campus without a warrant, but they cannot access non-public areas unless they have a valid judicial warrant or explicit consent from an authorized college official (only Public Safety).

What spaces on campus are considered public vs non-public area?

- Public areas are generally open to everyone. These areas include: outdoor spaces and exterior plazas; hallways and common areas; lobbies, front office desks, and other areas routinely open to the public.
- Non-public areas include: classrooms and labs (while in session); private offices and meeting rooms; residence halls; any workspace or area designated for college operations or restricted access.

Who is authorized to interact with immigration enforcement officers?

The Bellevue College president has designated the Director of Public Safety as the Agency Designee for handling immigration enforcement requests on campus. All employees must refer immigration enforcement agents to **Public Safety, B132, 425-466-9365**.

What steps should I follow if immigration enforcement comes to campus seeking people or records?

- 1 Direct them to Public Safety. Do not grant access to non-public areas.
 - You may say: *"I understand that you are here to enforce immigration law, but I am not authorized to assist and have been directed to connect you with Public Safety."*
 - Politely walk agents over to Public Safety's front desk in B132.
 - If they refuse to go to Public Safety, inform them you are not authorized to assist and that you have been directed to contact Public Safety. Ask them to wait in the public area and then move into a non-public area to call Public Safety at 425-466-9365 (including after hours) and notify them of the agent's presence. Agents cannot follow you into a non-public area.

- ② If they show a legal document (e.g., warrant, subpoena):
 - Do not accept service of the document. Explain to the agent(s) that you are not authorized to assist and are required to contact Public Safety first.
 - You may say: *“I am not authorized to accept service on behalf of Bellevue College and I have been directed to call Public Safety who can assist you further.”*
 - Ask for a copy of the document (or make a copy of the document—do not invite them to follow you into a non-public area if you need to leave to make a copy). Record the officer’s name, badge number, agency, and contact information.
- ③ Do not interfere if agents refuse to wait.
 - If agents claim judicial authority and refuse to wait, do not interfere with their actions. Instead, observe their conduct and take detailed notes of what happens, if you are able.
 - Call Public Safety at 425-466-9365.

What are Bellevue College employees prohibited from doing?

- Assist immigration officers with enforcement actions
- Grant access to non-public areas
- Accept or respond to service of subpoenas or warrants
- Attempt to verify someone’s immigration status

What is Public Safety’s role when immigration enforcement officers come to campus?

Bellevue College’s Public Safety team does not enforce federal immigration laws, conduct immigration status checks, or assist in detaining individuals solely based on their immigration status. However, if immigration enforcement officers come to campus, Public Safety is responsible for reviewing any legal documents presented, such as a judicial warrant, and ensuring that any actions taken are consistent with the law and the college’s established protocols. Public Safety’s priority is to safeguard the rights, privacy, and safety of our campus community while fulfilling legal obligations.

What if a student or employee is worried about immigration enforcement? How can I help?

Share resources that provide legal information and support:

- [Know Your Rights: Civil Immigration Enforcement in Washington | Washington State](#)
- [Know Your Rights | NWIRP.org](#)
- [Resources - National Immigration Law Center](#)

Is student immigration information protected?

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects student records, including immigration-related data. Bellevue College does not share student records, including immigration status, with immigration enforcement agencies without a judicial order or subpoena. Employees should refer all requests for student records to Public Safety.