

**INFORMATION SHEET 1.01-Eng:**

**What is a Family Emergency Plan?**



**Why should I have a family emergency plan?**

We all need to have a plan in case we face an emergency, no matter what our situation or legal status. This is even more important in uncertain times when we do not know what may happen to people who are undocumented or families made up of people with mixed immigration situations.

Here are some reasons why it is important for all families and individuals have a plan and be prepared:

- It helps us to make decisions on our own before they are made for us.
- It frees us from being anxious because we have done what we can to plan for the unexpected.
- It helps us to be ready in case of an emergency so that we do not have to do things at the last minute.
- It protects our children and families from unnecessary disruption.
- It protects what we have worked hard to earn in the best way possible.

**How can I use the information in this “Toolkit”?**

This toolkit contains basic information, instructions and checklists of some things that you may need to learn about or do to create a family emergency plan. To start, below is a list of general topics that may be more fully explained in Information Sheets in separate sections in this toolkit. Look for the section you want to work on and get started! As you work through a section, check the items off the list of things to do to prepare!

**Section One: I AM INFORMED!**

- I know where to get ***trustworthy free immigration and other legal information and help*** in the community, from, for example, a nonprofit organization.
- I know ***my immigration options*** and I got this information from a trustworthy immigration lawyer or DOJ (Department of Justice) accredited representative working for a recognized nonprofit.
- I know about my ***legal rights from a trustworthy organization or lawyer.***



- I know what **my rights** are and what I need to do if I am arrested or detained by ICE.
- I know the **documents** that I should and should not carry with me.
- I am aware that there are **scams** that steal people's money and make promises that are not true and I will not let myself get scammed!

**Section Two: I HAVE IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS IN A SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE PLACE!**

- I have gathered important documents that I may need quickly.
- I have placed in a safe place the documents that I may need quickly.
- I have selected a person who I know and trust and told them how to access my documents and what to do with them in case of an emergency.

**Section Three: I AM READY! I have a plan to protect me, my family, and my property.**

- I have decided what I will do with my children and have made the proper legal arrangements.
- I have decided what I will do with my property, like my house, car, etc., and have made the proper legal arrangements.
- I have friends, family and groups who know me and who I can contact if something happens to me.
- I am saving money in a bank account that is safe and which I or someone I trust can access from the USA or another country in case I need to pay a bond, a lawyer, immigration fees, rent/mortgage or to travel, etc.
- I am not isolating myself and I have emotional support through a group, agency, relative, friends, my church, etc.

**Where can I get help to create a plan for my family and me?**

Call the Volunteer Lawyers Network at (612) 752-6677 or email us at [vlm@vlmn.org](mailto:vlm@vlmn.org) for more information about where to get help to create an emergency plan.

***Esta información también está disponible en español.***