

What does the term “in custody” mean?

“In custody” means the individual is currently in one of ICE’s detention facilities. The ODLS will provide the name of the detention facility where the individual is located and information about contacting or visiting that facility. The ODLS will also provide the contact information for the ERO office responsible for the individual’s case.

Who is not in the ODLS?

The ODLS does not provide location information about everyone who has been detained. Safety, security, and agency discretion prevent some individuals from appearing in the ODLS. For example, juveniles (individuals under the age of 18) do not appear in the system. Also, some individuals may not be entered into the ODLS immediately after they are detained, depending on processing and upload time.

I have found who I am looking for. Now what do I do?

If you have found the individual you are looking for, you should contact the facility using the information provided to confirm the individual is there since the information in the ODLS could be up to eight hours old. If you decide to visit the individual who is being detained, you should contact the detention facility ahead of time to confirm their visiting hours and rules. You will also need to bring government-issued photo identification if you visit the facility.

I still have more questions. Where should I go?

There are more frequently asked questions (FAQs) on the ODLS website: <https://locator.ice.gov/odls/#/about>.



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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How Do I Locate Someone in Immigration Detention?

Online Detainee Locator System

www.ice.gov/locator

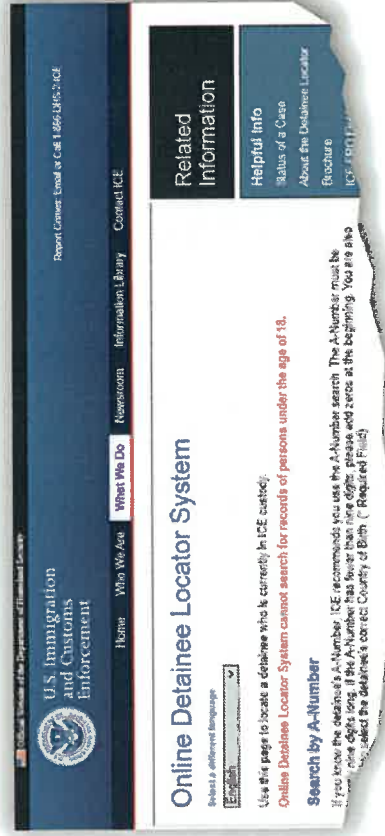


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What is the Online Detainee Locator System?

The Online Detainee Locator System (ODLS) is a public system available on the internet that allows family members, legal representatives, and members of the public to locate individuals who are detained by ICE. To use the ODLS, please visit <http://www.ice.gov/locator>.

Previously, the only way to determine the location of an individual who had been detained was by contacting an ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) office. As part of detention reform, ICE has deployed the ODLS so that family members and attorneys can locate an individual who has been detained more easily online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The system is also available in Spanish and seven other languages.



How does a family member or an attorney conduct a search to find an individual who has been detained by ICE?

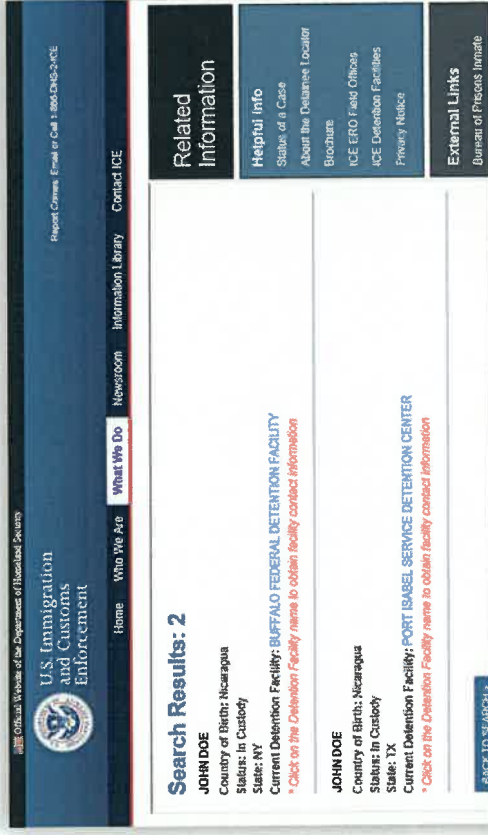
You can search the ODLS in two ways:

1. By Alien Registration Number (A-Number) and country of birth.

The best way to search the system is by using the A-Number and country of birth of the individual who has been detained. The A-Number is the nine-digit identification number that is assigned to a person who applies for immigration benefits or is subject to immigration enforcement proceedings. The nine-digit A-Number may begin with zeros. A-Numbers are unique and are assigned to one per person. The A-Number can be found in the top right corner of the Notice to Appear (NTA), Form I-862. Along with the A-Number, you need to input the individual's country of birth, or

2. By last name, first name, and country of birth.

If you do not have the A-Number of the individual who has been detained, you can search the system using the individual's first and last name and country of birth. If you are unsuccessful in your search, consider entering variations of the individual's name.



Do I have to know exactly how to spell the name of an individual who has been detained?

Yes. The ODLS performs an exact-match search. This means that in order to find an individual who has been detained, you must enter the person's exact A-Number or their first and last name as it appears on his or her detention record. If you accidentally type an individual's information incorrectly, the system may not give you the correct result.

For example, a search for "Robert Smith" will not return a detention record for "Robert Smyth" or "Bob Smith."

When you search using an A-Number, only one record will appear in the results, because every person has a unique A-Number. However, when you search using a person's name, many records may appear in the results if a lot of individuals who are detained share the same name and country of birth. When many records appear, look for the individual's year of birth, which will also be listed in the results, or search using the individual's A-Number.

What should I do if I still can't find anything after a search?

The ODLS only has information for individuals who are currently detained by ICE. If you are unable to locate an individual in the ODLS who has been detained, please contact the appropriate ICE ERO field office. A list of the various ERO field offices and their contact information is available at <https://www.ice.gov/contact/field-offices>, then filter by office to Enforcement and Removal Operations.