Beware of Scams

Immigrants in Oregon are being targeted by scams - stay alert and expose scammers

Common Scams
Recently we have seen an increase in the following scams, targeting Oregon families when loved ones have been detained

- Scammers impersonating immigration lawyers, including using real lawyer's names and license numbers
- Scammers claiming to be ICE agents and asking for money in exchange for empty promises of release

General tips for verifying:

- Neither ICE nor anyone in US government will ask you to Zelle/CashApp/Venmo them or send cash in the mail
- No lawyer or US government official will ask you to send money to their personal account or personal address
- US lawyers and government officials will be able to speak a professional level of English

Verifying Lawyers:

- Ask for their bar number and confirm it is registered in their state's bar directory
- Check the AILA directory or other sites with information about immigration attorneys
- Usually have a website/online presence in English+
- Address matches on google maps (check names)
- Always get a written contract that clearly explains the services the lawyer will provide and the cost.
- Lawyers should not promise or guarantee that you will win your case.
- If something sounds too good to be true, seek a second opinion.
- You should be able to speak directly with your lawyer, not only with an assistant or paralegal
- Do not sign a blank form or any form you have not reviewed.
- Do not sign an application that includes false information.
- Ask for copies of everything you sign, and everything submitted to the government in your name

Information About Notaries

- Notaries cannot provide immigration legal advice.
- In the United States, notaries do not have the same training as lawyers.
- Notaries may verify a signer's identity, confirm the person is signing willingly and is competent, administer oaths, and witness signatures before applying their official seal.
- In Oregon, a notary may charge up to $10 for a notarial act, or up to $25 for a remote online notarization.

Verifying ICE agents:

- ICE agents will not communicate with you through WhatsApp
- You can ask for name, badge number, and supervisor. Call the detention facility directly to confirm

Information from Asylum Seekers Solidarity Collective