


<p>California Department of Justice DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT Stephen Woolery, Chief</p> 	<h1>INFORMATION BULLETIN</h1>	
<p><i>Subject:</i> National Crime Information Center Administrative Warrants</p>	<p><i>No.</i> 2025-DLE-08</p>	<p><i>Contact for information:</i> Stephen Woolery, Chief Division of Law Enforcement (916) 210-6300</p>
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TO: CALIFORNIA LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

This bulletin provides guidance to state and local law enforcement agencies subject to California Government Code 7282 et seq. (the Values Act, often referred to as Senate Bill (SB) 54), regarding “administrative warrants”¹ entered in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system.

In response to NCIC queries, you may receive information indicating that individuals you encounter have an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) administrative warrant or hold request entered in the system. These ICE administrative warrants or hold requests will be indicated in the NCIC response as:

1. an “administrative warrant of arrest,”
2. an “administrative warrant of removal,” or
3. a “deported felon.”

Included in these responses you may see a request to contact ICE. **The Values Act prohibits state and local law enforcement from enforcing civil or administrative warrants or hold requests, or responding to ICE’s request to be contacted about these types of warrants or holds.**

Specifically, Government Code section 7284.6, subdivision (a)(1)(E) prohibits California state and local law enforcement from “making or intentionally participating in arrests based on civil immigration warrants.” A “civil immigration warrant” is defined by section 7284.4, subdivision (b), as “any warrant for a violation of federal civil immigration law and includes civil immigration warrants entered in the [NCIC] database.”

Unlike “administrative warrants” or “civil immigration warrants” described above, you may also receive a “criminal warrant” response to an NCIC query. A “criminal warrant” includes what is defined by the Values Act as a “judicial warrant.” (Govt. Code § 7284.4, subd. (i)). Unlike “administrative warrants” or “civil immigration warrants” that are issued only by ICE, a “judicial warrant” is a warrant based on probable cause and issued by a federal judge or federal magistrate judge for a violation of federal criminal immigration law. **The Values Act does not prohibit state and local law enforcement agencies from responding to a “criminal warrant” in an NCIC response.**

¹ Under the Values Act, these warrants are referred to as “civil immigration warrants.” (Gov. Code, § 7284.4, subd. (b)).

As a reminder, California state and local law enforcement are prohibited by the Values Act from:

1. contacting federal immigration authorities about an administrative warrant or hold request,
2. responding to an administrative warrant in any manner,
3. asking an individual about their immigration status or the administrative arrest warrant, and
4. detaining an individual pursuant to an administrative warrant or hold request past the time that they would otherwise be free to leave or released.²

As explained in *United States v. California*, 921 F.3d 865, 886-891 (9th Cir. 2019), the prohibitions in the Values Act are not preempted by federal law and do not conflict with 8 U.S.C. § 1373, or similarly, 8 U.S.C. § 1644. California state and local law enforcement are also reminded that, absent the limited circumstances set forth in the statute, the Values Act prohibits law enforcement agencies from investigating, interrogating, detaining, detecting, or arresting persons for immigration enforcement purposes.

Additional Reference Materials:

- DOJ Information Bulletin, 25-01-CJIS “Updated California Values Act’s Database Guidance,” at <https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/media/25-01-cjis.pdf>.
- DOJ Information Bulletin, 2025-DLE-03 “Updated Responsibilities of Law Enforcement Agencies Under the Values Act, California TRUST Act, and the California TRUTH Act,” at <https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/media/2025-dle-03.pdf>.
- NCIC Manual’s Immigration Violator File section, available on the CLEW website at <https://clew.doj.ca.gov/publications/ncic-2000>.

² “Hold request,” also known as a detainer, means a request by any immigration authority that a local law enforcement agency maintain custody of an individual currently in its custody beyond the time he or she would otherwise be eligible for release in order to facilitate transfer to an immigration authority. (Gov. Code, §§ 7283, subd. (b); 7284.4, subd. (e)). Holding or detaining someone who should otherwise be free to leave violates the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

“Immigration authority” means any federal, state, or local officer, employee, or person performing immigration enforcement functions. (Gov. Code, § 7284.4, subd. (c)).