



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Civil Rights Unit
Sanctuary Promise Hotline: 1-844-924-STAY (7829)
We Accept All Relay Calls
Interpretation in 240+ languages
SanctuaryPromise.Oregon.gov

Suggested Tips and Language for Law Enforcement in Compliance with Oregon Sanctuary Laws

This guidance is for law enforcement officers who have little experience or familiarity with Oregon's sanctuary laws and/or working with immigrant, refugee, and non-citizen community members. This may be a refresher for those who would like to be updated regarding community member interactions related to the latest changes under [HB 3265](#) known as the Sanctuary Promise Act.

The way law enforcement brings up and inquires about national origin, immigration, and citizenship status impacts how community members feel, respond, and cooperate with law enforcement. Body language, verbal language, and tone all send messages that can make community members feel safe or intimidated to approach law enforcement, disclose or withhold victimization, or otherwise report crimes.

It is important that law enforcement response reflects and conveys:

- Kindness
- Patience
- Dignity
- Care
- Safety
- Attentiveness
- Empathy
- Belonging
- Community
- Belief
- Support
- Options
- Resources
- Denunciation of bias and hate
- Humanity
- Verified facts regarding the sharing of immigration information

Suggested language for LE regarding national origin, immigration and citizenship status information:

- **Inquiries about NOICS should be explained in plain and direct language:**
"I need to ask you about your [place of origin] because I think that you may be the victim of a crime. The particular crime I am investigating depends on where you've come from. You don't have to share your [place of origin] with me. You have the choice whether or not to share this information with me."

- **Communicate clearly about potential implications of sharing:**
“Because you have been arrested, if you do disclose this information, it could be used in civil or criminal immigration enforcement, and could result in your removal from the United States”
- **If someone decides to share information about their national origin, immigration and citizenship status information, inform them how that information will be stored or used:**
“I’m writing down your [place of origin] and I will be including this in a police report I am writing. The police report will be shared with a local prosecutor to see if a crime can be charged against the person who did this to you. My police department is not allowed to share this information with ICE or any other immigration enforcement agency unless a judge tells me I must. My police department does not allow community members to see this part of my police report to protect your safety.”

LE should pay special attention to accessibility needs such as:

- **Language needs:** *“Would you prefer to use an interpreter to talk to me?”*
- **Fear of law enforcement:** *“I understand this might be scary or confusing; I will try as best as I can to explain the situation.”*
- **Information gaps:** *“If there is any word I use or anything I say that you are confused about, please feel free to ask me what I mean.”*
- **Acknowledge potential trauma:** *“I am sorry for what happened. I want to help you feel safe. I will pace my communication so that I do not overwhelm you.”*
- **Connect to resources:** *“There is a hotline that can help support you.”*
- **Explain next steps:** *“Can I tell you what will happen next?”*
- **Expressing appreciation and acknowledging community members:** *“Thank you for speaking with me. We take this matter seriously.”*