

INFORMATION SHEET:

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 these information sheets in this manual?

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

Section One: Important Immigration Information and Resources that I have collected and saved

- I know what my immigration options are and I got this information from a trustworthy immigration lawyer, or DOJ (Department of Justice) accredited representative.
- I know about my legal rights from a trustworthy organization or lawyer.
- I know where to get free immigration and other legal information and help in the community.
- 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: Important Documents and Information I should have and keep in a safe place

- I have gathered important documents that I may need quickly to keep in a safe place.
- I have important information that I may need to share quickly with someone I trust in a safe place.

Section Three: I have to care for my children 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.

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 for more information about where to get help to create an emergency plan.