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Attorney General Guidance:

Process for Submission of Complaint for Violation of G.L. c. 147, § 64 **(Section 7 of the PROTECT Act)**

The Attorney General's Office issues this guidance pursuant to An Act Promoting Rule of Law, Oversight, Trust and Equal Constitutional Treatment ("PROTECT Act"), Stat. 2026, c. 163, § 7(e)(1). This guidance should not be construed as legal advice or a formal legal opinion of the Attorney General. Immigrants, their families, law enforcement agencies, court personnel, and community members should consult with legal counsel if they need advice or representation in specific cases or circumstances.

Section 7 of the PROTECT Act, which takes effect as of September 4, 2026, creates a new law, Section 64 of Chapter 147 of the Massachusetts General Laws, which restricts the conduct of law enforcement agencies and courts related to the enforcement of federal civil immigration laws. Among other things, this section limits circumstances in which police officers, other employees of law enforcement agencies and sheriff's departments, and court employees may take certain actions. The following are some of the categories of conduct on which Section 64 imposes prohibitions:

- Inquiring about a person's immigration or citizenship status;
- Using state or local resources for federal civil immigration enforcement;
- Stopping, searching, or arresting a person based on their actual or perceived citizenship or immigration status;
- Detaining a person (or extending their detention) based solely on a civil immigration detainer; and
- Knowingly providing a federal immigration authority with nonpublic personal information, custody status, or advance notice of a person's release from pretrial detention or upcoming court appearances.

Further guidance on this and other sections of the PROTECT may be found at [Mass.gov/ProtectAct](https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2026/Chapter163). The full text of the Act is available at <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2026/Chapter163>.

Enforcement

The Attorney General may enforce Section 64 by bringing a civil action to compel compliance or prevent violations. If you have knowledge of a Section 64 violation, you may alert the Attorney General's Office by:

- filing a civil rights complaint online: <https://www.mass.gov/ago/civilrightscomplaint>
- calling the Attorney General's Office's Civil Rights Division at 617-963-2917.