



PROTECT *Act*

On August 5, 2026, Governor Healey signed the PROTECT Act, **the strongest protection against ICE in the nation.**

✓ Protecting Sensitive Locations

The Protect Act prohibits immigration arrests without a judicial warrant or court order at:

- **Courthouses** (Beginning November 3, 2026)
- **Public schools**, charter schools, voc-tech and agricultural schools
- **Child care centers**, family day cares or group care facilities that are licensed or funded by the MA Department of Early Education & Care.
- **Health care facilities** (including hospitals, Community Health Centers, substance use disorder programs, and nursing homes)
- **State property**, including buildings, land and other areas controlled by the state, including the State House

✓ Supporting Families, Workers & Survivors

The Protect Act gives residents new tools to plan for and safeguard their futures.

- **Standby-Guardianship:** Parents can now pre-arrange guardianship for their children in case they are detained or deported by ICE.
- **Notice of I-9 Audits:** Employers are now required to tell their employees within 48 hours of receiving notice of an I-9 audit (a paper review of an employer's proof of an employee's right to work).
- **U and T visa certifications:** Starting November 3, 2026, survivors will have a faster, more consistent process for securing U and T visa certifications, with agencies required to respond within 45 days, or 14 business days in urgent cases.

✓ The PROTECT Act also:

- Allows people to **sue government officials — including ICE agents** — in state court for violating their federal constitutional rights.
- Authorizes the **Attorney General to sue** if federal troops interfere with voting or ICE arrests anyone in protected locations, including courthouses.
- Establishes new **legal-access, transfer notice, language access and contact requirements** for people detained in Massachusetts and their families. (Beginning November 3, 2026)
- **Prohibits new 287(g) agreements**, except in narrow circumstances, and prohibits state and local officials from detaining or holding someone for an ICE pickup without a judicial order.
- Creates a **commission to investigate and make recommendations on immigration matters.**



Governor Maura T. Healey
Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll

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