HOMEWOOD FRIENDS MEETING (HFM) ICE RESPONSE POLICY

Approved 6/7/26, Revised contact names 7/1/26

I. Introduction

This Policy provides action steps the Meeting will take to prepare for any encounters with Immigration & Customs Enforcement ("ICE") on the Meeting's property. This is a fluid situation, often changing daily, as federal agencies change the way immigration laws are enforced. This Policy may need to be amended to reflect changes in guidance on immigration enforcement issues as events unfold.

- This Policy does not cover ICE conducting an "I-9 Audit" regarding the Meeting's employees, or arrests and/or searches outside the Meeting property (for example, ICE arrests on the street or raids at a worksite or private residence).
- This Policy does not constitute legal advice.

This Policy provides guidance so that the Meeting, its committees, our community in worship, renters, and all persons who attend Meeting activities can make educated decisions and plan accordingly.

II. Background

A. Rescission of the "Sensitive Locations Memorandum": In January 2025, the incoming presidential administration rescinded 30+ year guidance from the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") that generally prohibited ICE immigration enforcement activity in or near churches, schools, and hospitals, unless such activity was necessary to protect lives or prevent harm or injury to people. The rescission of this so-called "Sensitive Locations Memorandum" has now empowered ICE with the ability to conduct ICE raids in houses of worship, leading to the arrest, detention, and deportation of undocumented immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers who are present on a house of worship's property at the time of the ICE encounter.

B. Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) Lawsuit: BYM engaged in a lawsuit challenging the rescission of the Sensitive Locations Memorandum. On February 13, 2026, the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts granted a motion for preliminary injunction blocking the Trump-Vance administration's policy that allows ICE agents free rein to conduct raids and enforcement actions at and around plaintiff's houses of worship.

C. "Public Spaces" and "Private Spaces": Under federal law, ICE may enter any "Public spaces" to engage in immigration enforcement activities. However, they cannot enter "Private spaces" freely. Movement of vulnerable persons to private spaces is a second line of protection if ICE agents were to illegally enter the Meeting House.

III. Meeting House.

BYM recommends that BYM Meetings post a sign (see Attachment A) that says:

> *This is a private house of worship. We have a preliminary injunction from the Court in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting et al v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security et al, No. 8:2025cv00243 (Federal District of Maryland) that restricts immigration enforcement here. Any immigration enforcement actions at this location must be in compliance with the Court's preliminary injunction and protective order.*

Advice to churches and employers often recommends asking for a judicial warrant and inspecting it carefully. However, because BYM has a preliminary injunction in their case against DHS, no immigration enforcement should be happening on the HFM property without full compliance with BYM's preliminary injunction and protective order.

IV. Public/Private Spaces

The rooms that Homewood Friends Meeting designates as "Private" include:

- *Basement:* Kitchen (not locked)
- *Main Floor:*
  - Meeting office (locked) - only for Homewood Friends use. (Key can be obtained from Meeting Custodian, Operations Coordinator, Clerk or Assistant Clerk)
  - Susan B Anthony Room and bathroom (not locked)
  - Nursery (not locked) - only for Homewood Friends use
- *Second Floor:*
  - Hinenu Office (locked) - only for Hinenu use
  - Hicks Room (not locked) - classroom

V. Meeting Signage

Clear, understandable, and language-specific signage is one of the strongest protections against legal and illegal ICE immigration enforcement activity. Attached to this document are two signs, one for outside doors of the building (Attachment A) and the other for designated Private Spaces (Attachment B) within the Meeting House.

VI. Point Person

The Meeting will train "Point Persons" who will be responsible for communicating with ICE agents and coordinating response to an ICE presence at the Meeting House. Point Persons are authorized by this Policy to speak on behalf of the Meeting at the time of ICE's arrival. Point Persons depend upon the event being held.

A. **Meeting for Worship:** During HFM Meeting for Worship, potential Point Persons include the Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and the Ministry and Counsel person providing oversight.
B. **Other HFM Events:** The person responsible for the event will serve as the Point Person.

C. **Renter Events:** The person responsible for hosting the event will serve as the Point Person.

D. **No Public Events Scheduled:** Persons who are working in the building when no public events are scheduled will serve as the Point Person.

VII. Plan for Responding to ICE Presence at the Meeting House

A. **The Point Person will ask someone to calmly move vulnerable people to a Private Space**, if possible. Advise not to run or to exit the building. People running or leaving can give the ICE agents reason to claim further action or force was necessary.

B. **The Point Person will request two participants to video the interaction** with the ICE agent with their cell phones. We have a right to record the agents.

C. **The Point Person will assign someone to call the HFM clerk or assistant clerk and the BYM General Secretary about ICE presence at HFM:**

Clerk: Polly Heninger (410-419-2305) or Assistant Clerk: Rich Bruning (443-509-7095)
General Secretary of BYM (301-658-3379) who will notify BYM attorneys

D. **No one other than the Point Person will speak with the ICE agents** to avoid confusion and escalation. Ask others to stay silent and let the designated Point Person speak on behalf of the Meeting. Train Friends not to speak with agents and to simply say:

You are not allowed to enter, and I cannot give you permission to enter.
I am not authorized to speak with you. You must speak with our Clerk.

E. **The Point Person calmly states our rights:**

This is a private house of worship. We have a preliminary injunction from the Court in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting et al v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security et al, No. 8:2025cv00243 (Federal District of Maryland) that restricts immigration enforcement here. Any immigration enforcement actions at this location must be in compliance with the Court's preliminary injunction and protective order.

Do not argue with the ICE agents. Supply the ICE agent with the BYM Green Card (Attachment C).

F. **Do not escalate.** If during Meeting for Worship you may ask congregants to settle back into worship.

G. **Document.** Write or record these things after ICE leaves:

- How many agents were present? Inside and/or outside?
- How were the agents dressed? How were they armed?
- Did the agents make you or those present believe you could not move or leave?
- Did the agents mistreat anyone? If so, how?
- If ICE arrests anyone, ask the agents where they are being taken. Try to obtain contact information and/or date of birth for the individual being taken.

H. **If ICE ignores the Point Person and enters the Meeting anyway**, DO NOT IMPEDE THEM OR INTERFERE WITH THEM. The Point Person should continue to tell the ICE agents that they are entering the Meeting illegally and that the Meeting does not consent to their entry, and that the Meeting and persons in it are exercising their Constitutional rights. PHYSICALLY IMPEDING ICE OPERATIONS IS A FEDERAL CRIME EVEN IF THEY ARE WRONGFULLY ENTERING THE PROPERTY.

I. **Interacting with ICE:** No one has to speak with ICE, answer any questions or produce identifying documents, even if told by ICE agents that they have to. Persons may refuse to interact with ICE. They can also say that they will not talk to ICE without an attorney present.

VIII. Notification Plan for Congregants and Community members.

A. If ICE agents enter the Meeting, whether under valid legal authority or entering illegally, the Point Person must inform all persons within the Meeting building or property:
   - that ICE is on site
   - whether the ICE agents are armed or unarmed
   - The plan for all vulnerable persons to move inside Private Spaces if both possible and safe. (However, ICE may choose nevertheless to enter a Private Space illegally).

B. **After an ICE raid** it will be important for the Meeting to notify all members of the Meeting community, including members, attenders, staff, and renters, about the ICE raid. This includes:
   - Informing all persons about the ICE raid.
   - Whether any persons were arrested and detained.
   - Whether any documents, computers, or electronic devices were seized.
   - Information about how to locate a person arrested and detained by ICE.

ATTACHMENTS:

- **A.** HFM Building Sign
- **B.** HFM Private Spaces Sign
- **C.** BYM “Green Card”
- **D.** HFM Point Person Reminder Card


Baltimore Yearly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends
This is a private house of worship.
We have a preliminary injunction from the Court in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting et al v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security et al, No. 8:2025cv00243 (Federal District of Maryland) that restricts immigration enforcement here.
Any immigration enforcement actions at this location must be in compliance with the Court's preliminary injunction and protective order.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

This is a private house of worship.

We have a preliminary injunction from the Court in *Philadelphia Yearly Meeting et al v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security et al, No. 8:2025cv00243* (Federal District of Maryland) that restricts immigration enforcement here.

Any immigration enforcement actions at this location must be in compliance with the Court's preliminary injunction and protective order.

We honor the dignity of all migrants.
We too were once strangers in a foreign land.
Lev. 19: 33-34

Homewood Friends Meeting

Private Space

Homewood Friends Meeting

Espacio Privado

Attachment C. BYM "Green Card". This card should be provided to ICE agents by the Point Person.

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I cannot give you permission to enter.
I am not authorized to speak with you.
You must speak with the Homewood Friends Meeting Clerk.

Please contact our church's authorized representative:

Polly Heninger, Presiding Clerk
Homewood Friends Meeting
410-419-2305
clerk@homewoodfriends.org

Attachment D. HFM Point Person Reminder Card

HFM Point Person Reminder Card

1. **Advise vulnerable persons to move calmly to Private Spaces.**
2. **ID two people to film interaction with ICE with cell phones.**
3. **Assign someone to call the HFM clerk or assistant clerk and the BYM General Secretary about ICE presence at HFM**
    - Clerk: Polly Heninger (410-419-2305) or
      Assistant Clerk: Rich Bruning (443-509-7095)
    - General Secretary of BYM (301-658-3379) who will notify BYM attorneys
4. **No one other than Point Person engages with ICE agents.**

5. **Read this to the ICE agents:** *This is a private house of worship. We have a preliminary injunction from the Court in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting et al v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security et al, No. 8:2025cv00243 (Federal District of Maryland) that restricts immigration enforcement here. Any immigration enforcement actions at this location must be in compliance with the Court's preliminary injunction and protective order.*
6. **Give Green Card to ICE agents.**
7. **Do not block entry if ICE agents insist on entering the building.**
8. **Document encounter with ICE agents.**
9. **Inform the community about what has happened.**