

FLORIDA'S 2023 IMMIGRATION LAW

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated - 1/20/2025

1) What is this new law all about?

During Florida's 2023 Legislative Session, the Legislature approved, and the Governor signed into law House Bill 1617 and Senate Bill 1718 described as *an act relating to immigration* that contains over 20 sections covering over a dozen policy areas related to immigration within the State of Florida.

2) When did this law go into effect?

July 1, 2023.

3) Will it be a crime to live with, provide shelter, or rent space to individuals with an irregular immigration status?

No. This law does not address or put restrictions on any of the above.

4) Will it be a crime to provide transportation to a person with an irregular immigration status?

It will **NOT** be a crime to provide transportation within (inside) the State of Florida to any person with an irregular immigration status.

This law does have penalties for people who transport people with an irregular immigration status into (from the outside in) the State of Florida.

The law does not address traveling out (leaving) of the State of Florida.

5) Will it be a crime for a person with an irregular immigration status to travel within Florida?

No, this law does not make it unlawful to do day-to-day things like take your kids to school, go to church, carpool, etc. no matter what your immigration status is (as long as you aren't crossing state lines into Florida, it is fine to do these activities).

The act of having an irregular immigration status is a federal criminal offense and always subject to the law.

6) Can a person with an irregular immigration status be denied healthcare at a hospital under this new law?

No. Some hospitals and emergency departments will now be required by the State of Florida to ask a person's immigration status.

This question is optional and does not need to be answered to receive care at a hospital.

The information reported by hospitals to the State of Florida will not be about individuals but statistics and will not be reported to law enforcement officials.

It does not affect free clinics, primary care providers, medical specialists, or pediatricians.

7) Does this law affect access to public school for immigrant children?

No. In the United States, the right to public education is guaranteed by law to any child, regardless of the child's or parent/guardian's immigration status.

Every child in the United States, regardless of immigration status, is required to go to school until they reach a certain age determined by each state.

**8) What will happen to
Community ID programs in Florida?**

This law prohibits local governments from providing funding to issue community IDs to individuals who do not prove lawful presence in the United States.

The law **does not** invalidate community IDs issued by entities and it **does not** make it a crime to possess a community ID.

9) Which State licenses are no longer accepted as a result of this law?

Visit: <https://www.flhsmv.gov/driver-licenses-id-cards/visiting-florida-faqs/>
to see the most up to date list.

10) Can this law be stopped?

No. This law has been passed by Florida's Legislature and signed into law by the Governor and went into effect on July 1, 2023.

A law can be repealed. Contact your state representatives if you think a law should be repealed in a future Legislative Session.