



Virginia Protection Pledge: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Who wrote the petition? Residents of Arlington came together spontaneously under the banner, [We of Action](#). We collectively and informally decided a petition was a good, traditional, democratic way to show that *we the people* disapprove.

Who is the petition to? Arlington County doesn't even have power over ICE! Our goal is to get the Arlington County Board and other candidates or elected officials to take a stand. Even if they can't control ICE, they can at least express disapproval. Take the lead ... so others might follow.

I got something similar from someone else. How do they relate? I already signed the other petition. Great! Sign those too. They don't conflict or contradict, and duplication isn't illegal. You're not voting twice. You're just having two conversations with two different people.

At least please sign this Arlington petition so we can show local support to our local officials.

Why here? This might be a problem in Texas or Florida. But not in Arlington! It's happening everywhere, including in Arlington. Nobody is safe.

- On [July 2, 2025](#), an Arlington family heard a knock on the door at bedtime. An unknown man with no badge or sign of formal authority shoved his way into the room and drew his gun. The family and neighbors feared a kidnapping. When police arrived, they conferred with the man who claimed to be a bondsman working for ICE. The police watched as the bondsman dragged the father of the household away in handcuffs.
- In [Prince William County](#), six people were arrested in the courthouse in early July, while going about lawful business on other matters.

These cases are only examples that were reported in local press or recorded on YouTube. We don't really know how often this is happening. Anecdotally we hear children are afraid to attend school, and people are afraid to go to work, to court, or other places they must be.

What's the big deal about masks? Concealing faces makes it hard to hold people accountable – especially with increasing evidence of government overreach, abuse of power and violations of constitutional rights. Anonymity virtually assures that the individual – and maybe the entire agency or contractor – will never be held accountable.

The [New York City Bar](#) frames it like this: “Just as no democratic government should seek to avoid answering to its people, no law enforcement officer should seek to avoid the scrutiny required to ensure their actions comport with the law.”

Illegal immigration is a problem. Shouldn't we be happy Trump is finally doing something about it? These sweeps avoid the underlying problem. The need to create a lawful path to residency or citizenship for people who want to be here.

- **This is not about saving money.** Immigrants in Arlington – both documented and undocumented – add millions in economic activity each year. They are producers and consumers of good and services that support the vitality of our local economy.
- **This is not about jobs.** Immigrants in Arlington do critical jobs, including many that are hard to fill – home health aides, construction workers, berry pickers, and more.
- **This is not about crime.** Only a small percentage of the people detained so far are guilty of violent crimes. For many people, their only “crime” is their immigration status. Many undocumented people who have been here for years, have families and community roots, and would gladly follow a legal path to citizenship if we created one for them.
- **This is not about the law.** This effort is sweeping up people who are here legally and who are taking steps to be compliant with our legal immigration process.
- **Due process is not a luxury.** They say you're here illegally or committed a crime? Prove it! That's the process that is due. Without due process, it's kidnapping.