



# Stop the Collaboration

<b>Call to Action</b>	Berks County Jail must stop all voluntary cooperation with ICE and DHS. <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Do not contact ICE about anyone you have in custody</li><li>2. Do not honor ICE detainers by holding anyone past their release date and time</li></ol>
<b>Situation</b>	Berks County does not have a formal 287(g) agreement, but we do voluntarily cooperate with ICE by notifying them of any arrest of a noncitizen and detaining that person for 48 additional hours after their scheduled release date so ICE can take them away. Since more than half of all bookings into Berks County Jail are for misdemeanors or local ordinance violations, and three quarters are pre-trial, we should not hand them over to an agency known for its brutal detention practices and disregard for due process.
<b>Background</b>	ICE claims it only targets people with serious criminal records to protect public safety, but in fact it routinely arrests and detains people with no criminal convictions or only minor offenses, including US citizens and elected officials. Between October 2025 and March 2026, 23 people died in ICE custody and more will die as poorly prepared agents are rushed through training to meet mass deportation quotas. The current regime has set a target of 3,000 ICE arrests per day, or 1 million annually, and proximity to a detention camp increases the likelihood of local arrests by 6.4 times, so Berks is squarely in their sights.
<b>What you can do</b>	<p>Attend and speak at Prison Board meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM, typically online. The next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2026, with agendas posted 24 hours prior. Go to <a href="http://www.berkspa.gov/departments/jail-system/prison-board">www.berkspa.gov/departments/jail-system/prison-board</a> for more information.</p> <p>Email Prison Board Chair, Judge Scott Lash <a href="mailto:slash@berkspa.gov">slash@berkspa.gov</a> and County Solicitor Christine Sadler <a href="mailto:csadler@berkspa.gov">csadler@berkspa.gov</a>. CC the additional members of the board, including Commissioners Christian Leinbach <a href="mailto:cleinbach@berkspa.gov">cleinbach@berkspa.gov</a> Michael Rivera <a href="mailto:mrivera@berkspa.gov">mrivera@berkspa.gov</a> and Dante Santoni <a href="mailto:dsantoni@berkspa.gov">dsantoni@berkspa.gov</a>, Controller Joe Rudderow <a href="mailto:jrudderow@berkspa.gov">jrudderow@berkspa.gov</a> District Attorney John Adams <a href="mailto:jadams@berkspa.gov">jadams@berkspa.gov</a>, and Acting Sheriff Mandy Miller <a href="mailto:sheriff@berkspa.gov">sheriff@berkspa.gov</a></p> <p>Write to Berks County Prison Board at 633 Court Street, Reading PA 19610</p>
<b>Messages</b>	ICE operates as if every noncitizen is a criminal worthy of indefinite incarceration, and treats them far worse than anyone incarcerated in local jails or state or federal prisons. For the sake of your constituents, the people of Reading and Berks -- and to avoid legal consequences, for collaborators will be held accountable some day -- we are asking you to terminate your relationship with ICE and cease all voluntary cooperation with them. We don't want to live in a country where the government can arrest, detain, and deport anyone they deem a threat.
	BURN Organizing Workgroup, 3.14.26 <a href="http://www.noberksdetention.org">www.noberksdetention.org</a>