



The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties supports the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as it secures the nation while preserving individual liberty, fairness, and equality under the law.



Updated Solicitation for License Plate Reader Database

Following an in-depth review by CRCL, the DHS Privacy Office, and U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, ICE has updated and reissued its [solicitation for access to a commercially available database of license plate reader information](#). The updated solicitation represents a significant step forward in the protection of privacy and civil liberties interests in connection with important law enforcement activities.

Through its review DHS developed a framework that balances law enforcement's need to access commercially available license plate reader data while ensuring that critical privacy and civil liberties protections are in place. The review included consultation with law enforcement, the privacy community, civil liberties experts, and leaders in Congress. In addition, the DHS Office of Privacy, with assistance from CRCL, conducted a publicly available [Privacy Impact Assessment](#) that identifies potential privacy and civil liberties risks posed by ICE's access to such data—the first of its kind as it relates to access to commercially available license plate reader data. Mitigation measures for the risks identified in the impact assessment were incorporated into this solicitation.

ICE seeks to provide its law enforcement personnel with access to a previously established private sector operated and managed license plate database already being used by federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies across the U.S. ICE neither seeks to build a database nor collect or store bulk license plate reader data.

Under the solicitation ICE will not be the holder of bulk license plate data; it will always be maintained and stored by the commercial vendor. The government will only maintain particular individual records in case files once they are determined to have a connection to the legitimate law enforcement activity for which they were queried. No other records will be stored.

Among other protections designed to guard against potential misuse, access would be strictly limited to those ICE employees properly trained and authorized to use the database and will include internal controls, like an audit trail, to ensure the database is only used for official, sanctioned, law enforcement activity. Accountability, including potential disciplinary measures, will also exist for personnel who abuse or violate the rules associated with access to license plate reader data. These restrictions will provide essential privacy and civil liberty protections while enhancing our agents' and officers' ability to locate and apprehend suspects who could pose a threat to national security and public safety.

Inside

[Updated Solicitation for License Plate Reader Database](#)

[2015 Privacy and Civil Liberties Assessment Report](#)

[CRCL Hosts Town Halls with Syrian American Communities](#)

[ICE Detention and Reporting Information Line](#)

[ICE and CBP Appoint Prevention of Sexual Abuse Coordinators](#)

[CRCL On the Road](#)

[Contact Us](#)

2015 Privacy and Civil Liberties Assessment Report

The DHS Privacy Office and CRCL recently released the [2015 Executive Order 13636 \(Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity\) Privacy and Civil Liberties Assessment Report](#). The Report details federal departments' and agencies' efforts to work together and with the private sector to strengthen the security and resilience of our nation's critical infrastructure.

[Executive Order 13636](#) requires that senior agency officials for privacy and civil liberties assess impacts of the activities their respective departments and agencies have undertaken to implement the Executive Order, and to publish their assessments annually in a report compiled by the DHS Privacy Office and CRCL. Federal agencies that contributed to the 2015 Report include the Departments of Commerce, Defense, Energy, Health and Human Services, Justice, Treasury, and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

CRCL Hosts Town Halls with Syrian American Communities

This month CRCL held five Syria-focused community engagement town halls, hosted by the Syrian American Council in Dallas, Houston, Orange County (California), San Diego, and San Francisco. These events were held as part of CRCL's enhanced engagement efforts with communities impacted by, or with strong equities in, the Department's civil rights and civil liberties priorities focused on individuals who travel overseas to support or promote designated terrorist organizations.

At these town halls, CRCL presented a detailed overview of DHS and CRCL's engagement efforts and resources, along with elements of the community awareness briefing on countering violent extremism. In most cities participants were concerned with refugee resettlement and how their communities could play a more prominent role in working with local agencies to support this effort.

In addition, many spoke on having experienced difficulty with state and local agencies (such as renewing drivers' licenses) and potential employers who failed to recognize their Temporary Protected Status (TPS) as a lawful status. CRCL will share and consider feedback from these events as they assist with developing Department policies and procedures.



ICE Detention Reporting and Information Line

ICE's [Detention Reporting and Information Line \(DRIL\)](#) is a toll-free service that provides a direct channel for stakeholders to ask questions and resolve concerns on immigration enforcement issues. Since it was launched in September 2012 the DRIL has resolved more than 2,000 case assistance calls monthly on average.

ICE recently received information indicating a possible scam targeting noncitizens, by individuals claiming to work for ICE's Detention Reporting and Information Line. Information provided to ICE indicates that imposters have contacted individual non-citizens claiming that there are issues with their immigration cases and requesting money be sent to rectify the situation. To be clear ICE's DRIL operators do not make outbound calls or ever request money from individuals. The public is urged to alert ICE as soon as possible if a call is received along with any other additional information that could be useful to investigate the individuals or entities responsible for this scheme. To report suspicious activity, please contact the Joint Intake Center at (866) 347-2423. The public may also contact the DRIL directly at (888) 351-4024, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Eastern Time). Read more information on this issue in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

ICE and CBP Appoint Prevention of Sexual Abuse Coordinators

In March 2014 DHS issued its final rule for [Prison Rape Elimination Act \(PREA\)](#) regulations to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and assault in DHS confinement facilities. Among several directives the rule requires that each covered agency appoint an upper-level agency-wide Prevention of Sexual Assault (PSA) Coordinator to oversee agency efforts to comply with PREA standards in all immigration detention facilities. Recently, both ICE and CBP appointed PSA Coordinators to fulfill this mandate, which will include conducting regular reviews of sexual abuse and assault investigations and developing training for agency staff on prevention and intervention. In addition, each detention facility will employ or designate a PSA Compliance Manager who will serve as the facility point of contact for the agency PSA Coordinator and will oversee facility efforts to comply with sexual abuse prevention and intervention policies and procedures.

CRCL on the Road, March – April

March 16-17 – New York, New York

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtables with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

March 24 – Minneapolis, Minnesota

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

April 9 – Chicago, Illinois

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

April 18 – Minneapolis, Minnesota

CRCL Officer Megan H. Mack convened an East African Youth Summit with the Somali community.

April 28-29 – Los Angeles, California

CRCL will participate in the Leadership in Counter Terrorism conference.

March 22 – Charleston, West Virginia

CRCL held an interfaith town hall with local community and faith leaders.

March 31 – Atlanta, Georgia

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

April 15 – Houston, Texas

CRCL hosted an enhanced engagement town hall with the Syrian community.

April 27 – Houston, Texas

CRCL will convene its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

April 30 – Seattle, Washington

CRCL will convene its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

Additional information, and contacting us

The goal of this periodic newsletter is to inform members of the public about the activities of the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, including: how to file complaints; ongoing and upcoming projects; opportunities to offer comments and feedback; etc. We distribute our newsletters via our stakeholder email list and make them available to community groups for redistribution. Issues of the newsletter can be accessed online at: www.dhs.gov/crcl-newsletter.

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, want to request back issues, or have other comments or questions, please let us know by emailing crcloutreach@dhs.gov. For more information, including how to make a civil rights or civil liberties complaint about DHS activities, visit: www.dhs.gov/crcl.

CRCL Phone: 202-401-1474 • Toll Free: 866-644-8360 • TTY: 202-401-0470 • Toll Free TTY: 866-644-8361

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