

# St Johnsbury Community Trust and Public Safety Ordinance

To;St Johnsbury Selectboard  
Monday, April 27, 2026

## **Section 1. Purpose**

The purpose of this ordinance is to promote public safety, strengthen trust between the municipal government and residents, and clarify that immigration enforcement is the responsibility of federal authorities.

## **Section 2. Definitions**

“Civil immigration enforcement” refers to actions undertaken by federal immigration authorities related to alleged violations of civil immigration law.

## **Section 3. Non-Participation in Civil Immigration Enforcement**

No department, officer, employee, or agent of the Town shall use town funds, personnel, data, property, or equipment to investigate, enforce, or assist in the enforcement of federal civil immigration law, except where required by state or federal law.

## **Section 4. Immigration Status Inquiries**

Town employees and law-enforcement officers shall not inquire into the immigration status of any person unless such information is directly relevant to a criminal investigation and required by law.

## **Section 5. Detainer Requests**

The town shall not detain an individual solely on the basis of an ICE administrative detainer or immigration hold unless accompanied by a judicial warrant issued by a federal or state court.

## **Section 6. Access to Town Facilities**

Federal immigration authorities shall not be granted access to town facilities, detainees, or nonpublic information for civil immigration enforcement purposes without a judicial warrant or the informed consent of the individual involved.

## **Section 7. Equal Access to Services**

All town services, programs, and benefits shall be administered without regard to immigration status.

# **Vermont Fair and Impartial Policing Law Summary within the Context of ICE and Immigration Enforcement**

## **Overview**

Vermont requires state and local law-enforcement agencies to maintain Fair and Impartial Policing policies designed to prevent biased policing and promote equal treatment.

## **ICE and Civil Immigration Enforcement**

Local police are generally not tasked with enforcing federal civil immigration law. Civil immigration enforcement is primarily the responsibility of ICE and other federal authorities.

## **Immigration Status Inquiries**

Officers are generally discouraged from asking about immigration status during routine encounters unless relevant to a criminal investigation, required by law, or necessary for public safety.

## **Detainers and Administrative Warrants**

ICE detainers or administrative requests are not the same as judicial warrants. Policies generally limit holding individuals solely for civil immigration purposes absent lawful authority.

## **Public Safety Rationale**

The framework encourages victims, witnesses, and residents to report crimes and seek help without fear that routine police contact becomes immigration enforcement.

## **In Summary**

Vermont's framework separates local policing from routine federal civil immigration enforcement while preserving lawful cooperation where required.