DHS Sensitive Locations Policy

What are sensitive locations?
The DHS 2011 Sensitive Locations memo prevents ICE from approaching you in certain public places. This means that ICE should not arrest, search, or interview you at these locations:

- Hospitals
- Schools (K-12, college and vocational schools)
- Places of worship or buildings rented for religious services
- Funerals
- Weddings
- Demonstrations

Special exceptions for sensitive locations
Actions may occur at these locations in special circumstances including:

- someone who poses an imminent threat, such as a national security risk
- immediate pursuit of a felon or person who poses danger to the public
- risk of destruction of property

ICE Officers’ Conduct in Exceptional Circumstances
If actions may occur at these locations in special circumstances, ICE officers follow these guidelines:

- Officers must have obtained high-level ICE approval
- Officers must make substantial efforts to avoid alarming the community
- Officers must be discrete and limit their time at the sensitive location

Courthouses
Courthouses are not sensitive locations, which means ICE can approach you there.

However, on Jan. 10, 2018, DHS announced that it will only approach specific targeted immigrants with criminal backgrounds, removal orders, or illegal re-entries.

ICE will not arrest other immigrants present at the courthouse unless they pose a threat to the public or try to stop ICE from arresting someone else.

This resource provided by the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. For more resources, visit cliniclegal.org. Updated Feb. 12, 2018.