IMMIGRATION **JUSTICE** CAMPAIGN

How Do I Find Out What's Happening in My Client's Case?

If you've taken a bond, parole, or habeas case, you also need to know what is happening in your client's underlying "removal proceeding". Remember, requesting parole, filing a bond motion, or filing a habeas petition in district court are all distinct proceedings from the case in which your client is trying to get permission to stay in this country. **Because that removal case doesn't stop while you're requesting release from detention, it's important you keep track of what is happening in it.** It can have eligibility and jurisdictional effects on your case.

There are two things you should always know about your client:

Where they are detained, and

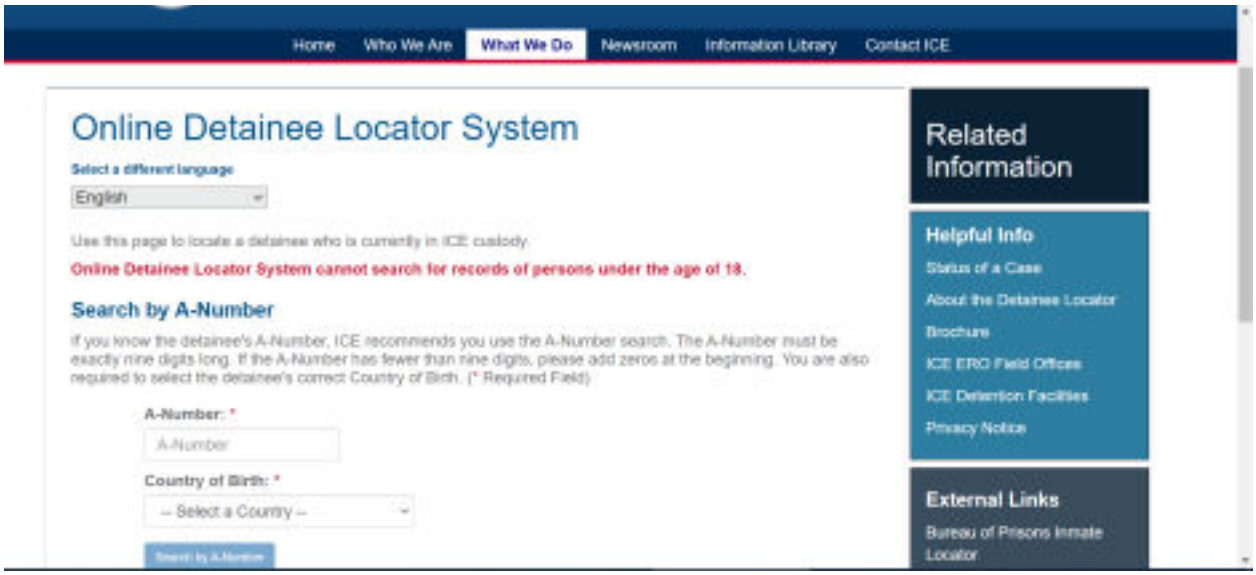
What is happening in their underlying removal case.

Practice Note: Check regularly on your client's underlying case as you proceed with your parallel request. Because detention cases move quickly, checking once a week is a good rule of thumb.

Where's My Client?

We wish this were simple: your client should be where they were when the case was referred to you. Unfortunately, that's not always the case. Clients are regularly moved between detention centers, especially if their case is on appeal or they have a final order of removal (i.e. their removal case is completed). Here's how to find your client:

First, visit the ICE Detainee Locator at: https://locator.ice.gov/odls. The screen should look like this:



Search by A#: You will need the client's A# and the client's country of birth.

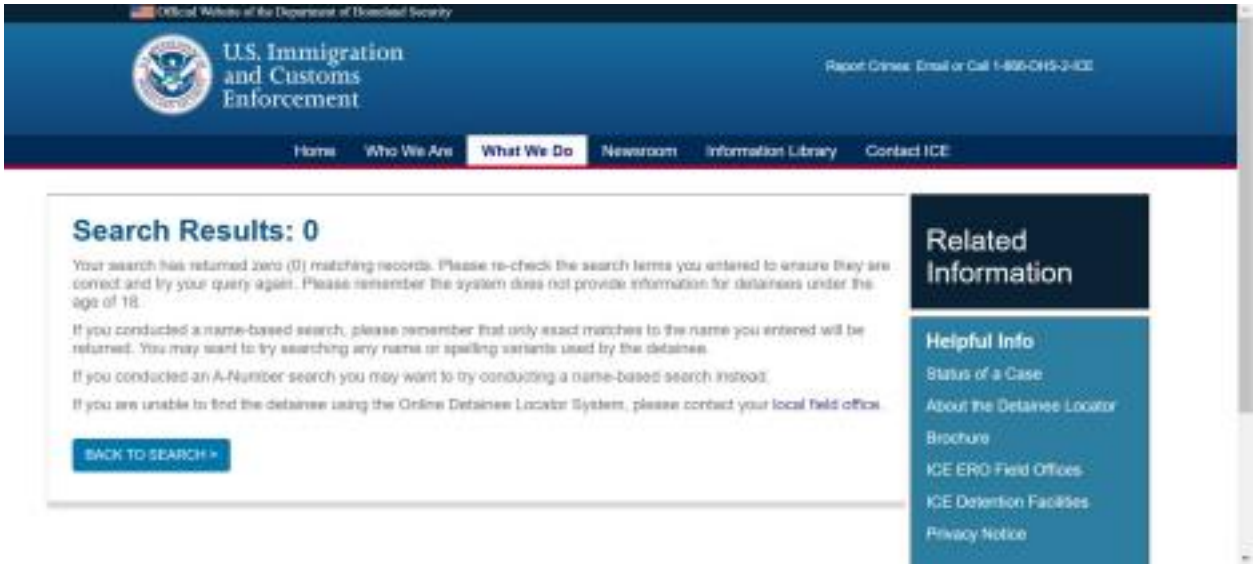
Once you conduct the search, one of two types of screens will appear. Either there is information indicating where your client is detained, which will look like this:



Here, you can tell that your client is detained, and where they are detained (in this case, at the Folkston Processing Center in GA). Clicking on the hyperlink to the facility will bring you to that detention center's main page which will contain basic information like its address and main

phone number.

Sometimes, your search result may end up looking like this:



Usually, this means your client is no longer in detention. That could be due to their being released into the United States via parole or bond or due to winning their removal case. It can also mean that they have been deported. Finally, sometimes this is temporarily the result you will receive if your client is still detained but is in the process of being moved from one detention center to another, especially if they are far apart. If you're not expecting your client to have been released or deported, and you've confirmed their removal case is still pending (see below), the best follow-up is to contact the ERO Field Office that was responsible for your client's detention and ask if they have been released.

A list of the ERO (ICE) Field Offices and their main phone numbers can be found here: https://www.ice.gov/contact/ero

What's Happening in My Client's Removal Case?

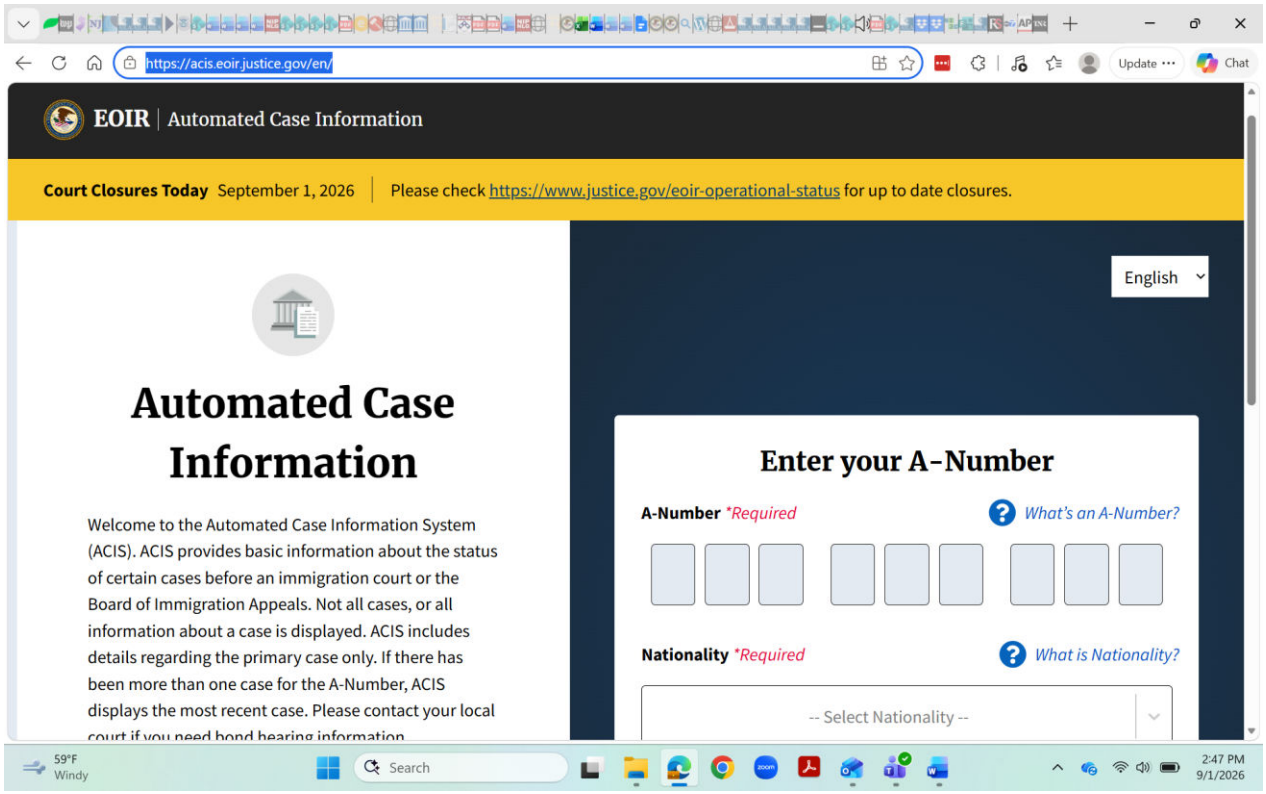
You also need to regularly check the status of your client's underlying removal case (at least weekly). A client who is detained will be, in general, in one of three phases in the process:

1. Their case is still in its initial stages in front of an immigration judge ("IJ"). There has been no decision yet.

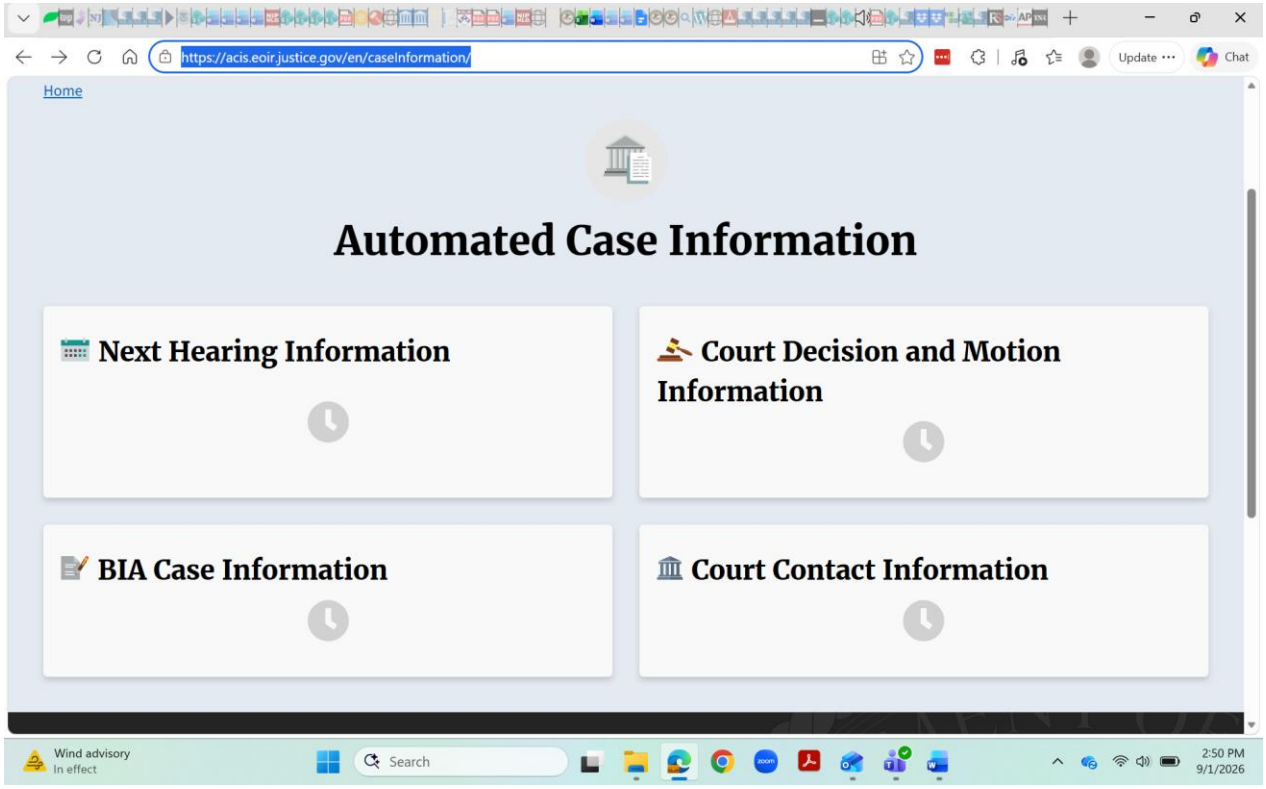
2. Your client is on appeal in front of the Board of Immigration Appeals. This is almost always due to your client losing in front of the IJ, but occasionally a person can remain detained if they win their case before the IJ and the government appeals. **While your client has an active appeal before the BIA, their order of removal is not considered "final".** This is particularly important for habeas cases.

3. Your client has a final order of removal, either because they lost their appeal before the BIA, or never appealed at all. If your client is appealing beyond the BIA to the federal circuit court, whether the order of removal is "final" differs by Circuit. Be sure you're talking to your mentor about this.

   To find out your client's case status, go to: portal.eoir.justice.gov/infosystem/. Your screen should look like this:



Enter the client's A# and nationality, and you'll get the following information:



On the top right, you'll see your client's name and A# (blank here as no client information was entered).

The top left box will have the next hearing date and location, if the case is still before the IJ (**NOTE:** Bond hearings will NOT appear on this page).

The top right box has any decision information, and what court the case was before at the IJ level.

The bottom left box has any BIA appeal information.

The bottom left box gives the full information of what court the case is currently before.

Practice Note: If your client is *only* applying for Withholding/CAT and *not* asylum, the website will indicate that they were Ordered Removed *even if they won withholding/CAT*. Both of these forms of relief are pauses to the execution of a removal order. Please talk to your mentor if you have questions about this.

Thank you again for taking on a case with the Immigration Justice Campaign!