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

You've taken on a pro bono case with the Justice Campaign. Thank you! 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—whether that's through an asylum claim, an appeal of a prior case, or something else. 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** s/he is detained, and **What** is happening in his/her underlying removal case.

PRACTICE NOTE: Check regularly on your client's underlying case as you proceed with your parallel request.

Where's My Client?

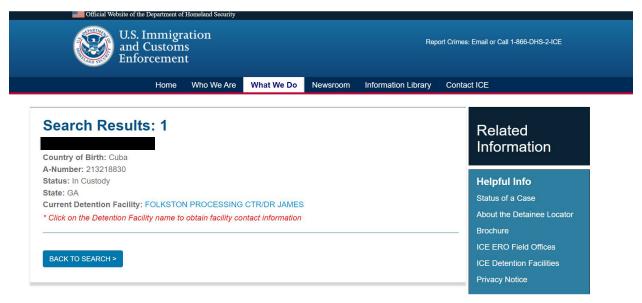
We wish this were simple: your client should be where s/he was when the case was referred to you. Unfortunately, that's not always the case. Clients are regularly moved between detention centers, especially if their case is on appeal or they have a final order of removal (i.e. their removal case is completed).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

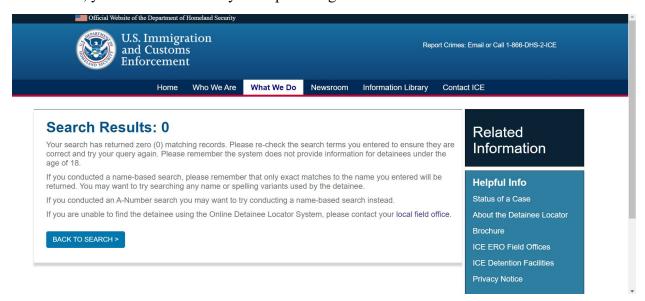
Online Detainee Locator System Select a different language							Related Information
English ~	•						
Use this page to locate a detainee who is currently in ICE custody.							Helpful Info
Online Detainee Locator System cannot search for records of persons under the age of 18.							Status of a Case
Search by A-Number							About the Detainee Locator
If you know the detainee's A-Number, ICE recommends you use the A-Number search. The A-Number must be exactly nine digits long. If the A-Number has fewer than nine digits, please add zeros at the beginning. You are also required to select the detainee's correct Country of Birth. (* Required Field) A-Number: *							Brochure
						so	ICE ERO Field Offices
							ICE Detention Facilities
							Privacy Notice
A-Number	A-Number						

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 s/he is 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 his/her being released into the United States via parole or bond or winning his/her removal case. It can also mean that s/he has 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, the best follow-up if you receive this result is to contact the ERO Field Office that was responsible for your client's detention and ask if s/he has 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 Case?

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

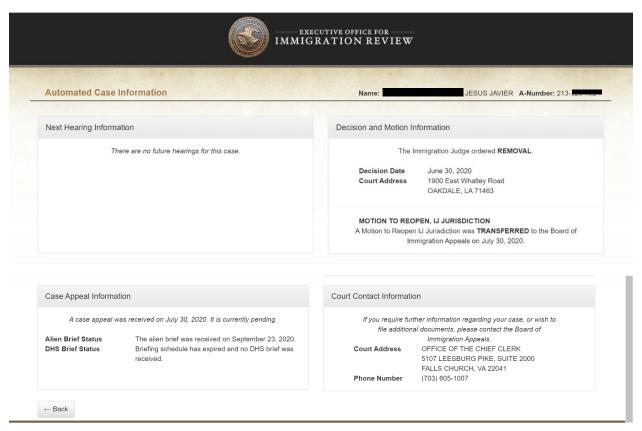
- 1) His/her case is still in its initial stages in front of an immigration judge ("IJ"). There has been no order in his/her case yet.
- 2) Your client is on appeal in front of the Board of Immigration Appeals. This is almost always due to your client losing in front of the immigration judge and on his/her appeal, 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 s/he lost the 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 you'll get the following information:



On the top right, you'll see your client's name and A#.

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, and finally the bottom left box gives the full information of what court the case is currently before (in the above example, the address of the Board of Immigration Appeals).

PRACTICE NOTE: If your client is *only* applying for Withholding/CAT and *not* asylum, it will indicate that they were Ordered Removed *even if they won withholding*. Please talk to your mentor about this situation if you think it may apply.

We know you're working as quickly and diligently as you can to pursue your client's release from detention. It's important that as you do so, you keep appraised of your client's situation to ensure that you have the best chance of getting your client released.

As always, any questions about these topics can be directed to your mentor. Thank you again for taking on a case with the Justice Campaign!