

Policy for Resumed Removals to Haiti

Following the tragic earthquake in Haiti more than one year ago, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) temporarily ceased removing criminal alien nationals to Haiti. Going forward, in coordination with the Government of Haiti and the U.S. Department of State, ICE is resuming limited removal of criminal aliens with a focus on serious offenders such as violent felons. At this time, ICE is not removing non-criminal aliens (unless they are determined to be a significant national security threat), aliens with a pending temporary protected status (TPS) application, aliens who have been granted TPS, or aliens who are otherwise present in the United States in a lawful status.

In most circumstances, ICE is legally required to remove detained aliens who are subject to final orders of removal or release them into U.S. communities if their repatriation or resettlement is not reasonably foreseeable. ICE is working in coordination with the Department of State and the Government of Haiti, to resume removals in as safe, humane, and minimally disruptive a manner as possible.

This policy is limited to aliens with a final order of removal who pose a threat to the public safety given their previous serious criminal offense or history. Haitian nationals facing removal over the coming year will be individuals convicted of a range of serious crimes such as homicide, rape, sexual assault, robbery, sex offense against children, aggravated assault, assault, kidnapping, false imprisonment, sale of cocaine, smuggling cocaine, sale of marijuana, and larceny. The resumption of removals to Haiti takes place in a measured manner with a limited number of eligible aliens removed to Haiti each month, addressing the security needs of both the U.S. and Haiti. ICE carefully reviews each case to ensure that the alien qualifies for removal under the terms of this policy.