



Tip of the Month August 2025

**New Resources for Volunteer Attorneys Advising Clients Who
Are at Risk of Deportation: *Minnesota Family Deportation
Preparedness Manual***

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This summer, Volunteer Lawyers Network prepared the *Minnesota Family Deportation Preparedness Manual*. This manual is a guide for people in Minnesota at risk of being detained or deported regarding issues not directly related to their immigration status. When someone is detained or deported, several collateral or indirect consequences could arise that impact various facets of their life. For example, they could potentially stand to lose their children, their job, their apartment, their personal property, and their car. It is very important to take steps before being detained to ensure that one's family and assets left behind in Minnesota are protected, to the extent possible, in the event of deportation. The manual does not address immigration legal issues but rather serves as a starting point for people who may be at risk of deportation to begin to think through potential collateral consequences to their lives and their family's lives and serves as a guide on how to try to take mitigating action.

The manual covers a wide range of topics. It details the statutory short form power of attorney, a form that allows one to designate another adult as an "attorney-in-fact" to act on one's behalf. One purpose of this form is to allow someone else to take action on one's behalf, such as terminating a lease if one is detained and can no longer live in a rental unit. The manual also details issues regarding caring for minor children, including Delegations of Parental Authority (DOPAs). A DOPA is a form that allows an adult to act on behalf of another person's child, such as enrolling them in school and taking them to medical appointments. The manual also explains how to prepare a child's travel documents and obtain a passport in case they need to be reunited with a parent who has been deported to their home country. Additionally, the manual covers housing issues, including how eviction works in Minnesota when one is detained and no

longer living in their apartment. It provides guidance for communicating with a landlord and retrieving personal property from apartments if one is detained. The manual also discusses what can happen to unpaid debts incurred in Minnesota upon deportation and prolonged nonpayment. It also provides actionable options for vehicle owners such as how to avoid unnecessary fines or fees, as well as how to sell or give away a vehicle.

The *Minnesota Family Deportation Preparedness Manual* is intended to be an informational resource for volunteer attorneys and community partners to look to when working with clients or community members who are at risk of detention or deportation. Volunteer attorneys can look to this resource to determine steps they may wish to advise a client to take to ensure their familial and financial affairs are in order if they are at risk of being detained.

The manual can be found on VLN's website at: [https://www.vlnmn.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Minnesota Family Deportation Preparedness Manual.pdf](https://www.vlnmn.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Minnesota_Family_Deportation_Preparedness_Manual.pdf)

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