

Message Guidance: Executive Orders on Citizenship

August 2026

Background

On June 30, 2026, the Supreme Court in *Trump v. Barbara* reaffirmed that children born in the United States are U.S. citizens under the 14th Amendment, regardless of their parents' nationality or status in the United States. In a victory for all Americans, the Court's decision blocked the executive order and birthright citizenship remains law across the United States.

After losing in the Supreme Court, Trump signed two executive orders on August 6 that brazenly target immigrant families and children born here.

- Executive Order 14418 is another attempt to deny birthright citizenship to certain groups of people, based on the origin and actions of their parents.
- Executive Order 14419 would enable ICE and USCIS to deport and strip legal status from anyone who comes to the US with the purpose of giving birth on U.S. soil or helps someone come to the U.S. for this reason.

Narrative Frame

We all value our freedoms as aspiring citizens, newcomers, and people who have lived here for generations. For over a century, our communities have united across races, cultures, and languages to fight for fair treatment, freedom, and opportunity. Because of these principles, families have been able to put down roots in the neighborhoods and towns we call home, and pursue our dreams. This is the foundation of the American promise.

Limiting citizenship would not solve any economic or immigration challenge. It would instead create years of chaos and division. The way forward is to fiercely defend each other and our community. Together, we can demand that our leaders protect our families, neighbors, and coworkers and work toward a future where everyone's rights are protected, no exceptions.

TALKING POINTS

Topline Messaging

- The Supreme Court reaffirmed what we have known for over 125 years: the Constitution does not allow the government to pick and choose which children born in this country belong.
- These orders are unlawful and are a desperate end run around the Court's decision. The administration has a pattern of throwing everything at the wall and seeing what sticks to contest who belongs and who gets a say in our democracy. At the end of the day, no President is above the Constitution.
- Let's be clear: attacks on birthright citizenship are an attack on the Constitution, and all our rights.

Birthright Citizenship: An Essential Right

- This right is guaranteed by the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, confirmed by the Supreme Court, and codified in federal statute.
- Birthright protects people equally in this country. It ensures that all children born here are treated fairly and equally, rather than creating a two-tier class system.
- Birthright citizenship is an essential feature of our democracy. It is widely popular among Americans because it offers a simple, clear rule about who belongs.
- Immigrants have always made our country better and it is alarming that the administration is trying to use flimsy rationale to further restrict access to citizenship — and in effect, nearly all immigration.

Trump's Agenda: How Attacks on Citizenship are an Attack on All of Us

- From birthright citizenship to voting, Trump is using executive orders to redefine who belongs in America and who participates in our democracy -- that's not how it works.
- From worker sponsorship to pausing immigration applications from over 39 countries, this administration is using its federal powers to trespass on our rights.
- At a time when Americans are struggling to put food on the table and pay their bills, Trump's power grabs have created chaos and havoc for all of us.
- Undermining birthright citizenship, which is guaranteed by the Constitution and backed by Supreme Court precedent and federal legislation, would put the law into the hands of a president with an agenda of attacking the freedoms of all our communities.

The Impact of Trump's Executive Orders to Undermine Citizenship and Increase Suspicion of Immigrant Communities

- **Executive Order 14418**

- The Trump administration lost its fight to change birthright citizenship. Now their latest move is to try and find an end-run around the Supreme Court's decision by trying to redefine the 14th Amendment.
- Specifically, it directs federal agencies to not issue or recognize citizenship documents for children born in the U.S. based on the nationality and actions of their parents. For example, the administration wants to deprive the children of employees who work at consulates and embassies all across the country of their birthright to citizenship. These types of changes over time create groups of people who are born and raised in this country without equal protection and equal rights under our laws.
- The order is not yet in effect. [Civil rights organizations like the Asian Law Caucus and others are challenging the executive order in court.](#)
- It is part of Trump's continued scapegoating of immigrants and one piece of the far right's desire to test our communities by trying to deny some of us access to our right to citizenship
- Trump's order is a flagrant attempt to get around its loss at the Supreme Court and this administration will lose again.

- **Executive Order 14419**

- Trump's order would enable federal agencies to deport and strip legal status from anyone who comes to the US for the alleged purpose of giving birth on U.S. soil or helps someone come to the U.S. for this alleged reason.
- Trump's order gives fuel to xenophobic and anti-immigrant voices that wish to use a set of far-fetched and rare circumstances to deny access to citizenship.
- The federal government already conducts extensive screenings before granting any temporary visa to the U.S., including asking the purpose for which the individual is traveling.
- This order is part of the far right's outsized focus on 'fraud' despite being unable to prove such a problem is widespread or exists. Most worryingly, the executive order could give agency officials broad power to act upon suspicions or accusations without proof – a violation of our due process rights.

General Do's and Don't's (adapted from [ASO Communications and Research Collaborative](#))

DO	DON'T
DO center the value of birthright citizenship and its popularity among Americans	DON'T use the Trump administration's language (e.g. "birth tourism, alien enemy"). Instead, begin with the idea that "whether, when, or where to start a family are complex decisions because life does not follow one path. For example, someone here on a temporary visa like a PhD student may decide to start a family as they complete their degree and continue their research. Redirect to the idea that these executive orders are proposing a sweeping federal authority to punish people based only on suspicion.
DO point out the unlawfulness of Trump's executive orders (e.g. birthright citizenship is the law of the land; Trump's latest actions are an end run around the law)	DON'T give the impression that executive orders are automatically law. Congress makes and passes laws, and the President upholds and enforces them.
DO frame these executive orders as part of a Trump agenda that is bad for all our freedoms (E.g. Trump wants to take away our freedom to move, give our families a better live, keep our families and communities whole)	DON'T focus solely on immigrant communities. Connect Trump's overreach as an attack on everyone's civil rights.
DO highlight public-facing harms like abductions that will tear families apart, unfair targeting and scapegoating of immigrant groups	DON'T focus on process descriptors about maintaining norms, precedent, or balance of power.
DO talk about how this Executive Order is another effort by this administration to <i>take away our freedoms, control us, decide our futures for us, and take us backwards.</i>	DON'T obscure who is responsible by using passive language like "democracy is eroding" or "autocratic practices are increasing."

DO specify the people who are threatening our freedoms: the Trump administration, anti-immigrant lawmakers

DON'T condemn all forms of government (e.g. “get the government out of our XX decisions,” which feeds a right-wing frame and undermines the idea that we can act together for our collective good). Many of the freedoms we seek actually require vigorous government action – for example, the freedom to live safe from gun violence or breathe clean air.

For more information, visit defendbirthright.com for resources and ways to take action