

Court Policy: No Courtroom Arrests Based on Immigration Status

The King County Superior Court judges affirm the principle that our courts must remain open and accessible for all individuals and families to resolve disputes under the rule of law. It is the policy of the King County Superior Court that warrants for the arrest of individuals based on their immigration status shall not be executed within any of the King County Superior Court courtrooms unless directly ordered by the presiding judicial officer and shall be discouraged in the King County Superior Court courthouses unless the public's safety is at immediate risk. Each judicial officer remains responsible for enforcing this policy within his or her courtroom. This policy does not prohibit law enforcement from executing warrants when public safety is at immediate risk.

In adopting this policy, the Superior Court recognizes that cooperation with other branches of government, including law enforcement agencies, is essential. The judges respectfully request that the county executive, in cooperation with the other branches of government, initiate a dialogue with the appropriate law enforcement agencies to develop a protocol implementing the policy which: 1) respects the dignity of the courtroom and the proceedings occurring in each of the courtrooms; and 2) discourages arrests inside of the courthouses.

Approved by the King County Superior Court Judges: April 22, 2008.