

San Diego County Immigrant Legal Defense Program (ILDP)

ABOUT THE ILDP

The San Diego County Immigrant Legal Defense Program was proposed in 2021 by Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer and established by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. The program ensures due process and fairness in immigration proceedings by providing people in deportation proceedings with legal representation. The program officially launched in April 2022 within the Public Defender's Office and in August of 2025 has expanded to provide services to unaccompanied minors.

QUALIFICATIONS

This program provides free legal representation to individuals with ties to San Diego County who are currently detained in an immigrant detention center, unaccompanied minors, or those presently in Alternative to Detention status in San Diego County.

HOW TO CONTACT THE ILDP FOR LEGAL REPRESENTATION

If you or a loved one are seeking an immigration attorney for legal representation in your immigration case, you can call the ILDP intake line at **(619) 446-2883** to be connected.

When calling, be prepared to provide information about the person you are calling about, including their name, date of birth, detention A#, expected immigrant legal defense issue (i.e. asylum, criminal conviction removal, suspension of deportation, etc.), and other information regarding the case.

Ways to connect:

- ILDP Intake Line: **(619) 446-2883**
- For those currently detained inside of Otay Mesa Detention Center: Call toll free by dialing **1157#**
- Email:
oac.immigration@sdcounty.ca.gov

Operating Hours of the Intake Line:

- Monday through Friday
8:00am-5:00pm.
- If you call outside of these hours, leave a message and your call will be responded to as soon as possible during the weekday hours.

PROGRAM IMPACT



3,000 individuals represented since 2022



12,500 calls received from individuals seeking representation, an average of **35** calls per day



Representation rates of individuals detained at Otay Mesa nearly tripled, from **10%** to **41%**



40% of cases with substantive outcomes resulted in a win or stay in the country. (2002-2025)

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR TERRA LAWSON-REMER

Four years ago, we launched the San Diego County Immigrant Legal Defense Program with a bold vision: to ensure that no one in our community faces the threat of wrongful deportation alone simply because they cannot afford an attorney.

Today, I am proud to share that this program has provided vital legal representation to more than 3,000 individuals, standing up for fairness, due process, and human dignity. Thanks to the dedication of our legal partners and the support of our community, we are making a real difference by keeping families together and ensuring our immigrant neighbors have a fighting chance to stay in the place they call home.

This program is about more than just legal representation—it is about justice, fairness, and due process. As we reflect on the impact of this program, I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved and even more determined to build on this critical work in the years ahead.

San Diego County is stronger when we uphold our values as enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, and I am grateful to everyone who has helped make this program a success. Together, we are building a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

- Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer

San Diego County Board of Supervisors