What do the terms “In custody” and “Not in custody” mean?

- **“In custody”** means the individual is currently in one of ICE’s detention facilities. The ODLS will provide the name of the detention facility where the detainee is located and information about contacting or visiting that facility. The ODLS will also provide the contact information for the DRO office responsible for the detainee’s case.

- **“Not in custody”** means the individual was released from ICE custody within the last 60 days and is not in one of ICE’s detention facilities. This means the detainee may no longer be in the United States, or may have been released from ICE custody.

Who is not in the ODLS?

The ODLS does not provide location information about everyone in ICE custody. Safety, security, and agency discretion prevent some individuals from appearing in the ODLS. For example, juveniles (detainees under the age of 18) do not appear in the system. Also, some individuals may not be entered into the ODLS immediately after they are detained, depending on processing and upload time.

I have found who I am looking for. Now what do I do?

If you have found the detainee you are looking for, you should contact the facility using the information provided to confirm the detainee is there since the information in the ODLS could be up to 8 hours old.

If you decide to visit the detainee, you should contact the detention facility ahead of time in order to confirm their visiting hours and rules. You will also need to bring government-issued photo identification if you visit the facility.

I still have more questions. Where should I go?

There are more frequently-asked questions (FAQs) on the ODLS website: http://www.ice.gov/locator.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

06/2010

How Do I Locate Someone in Immigration Detention?

Online Detainee Locator System

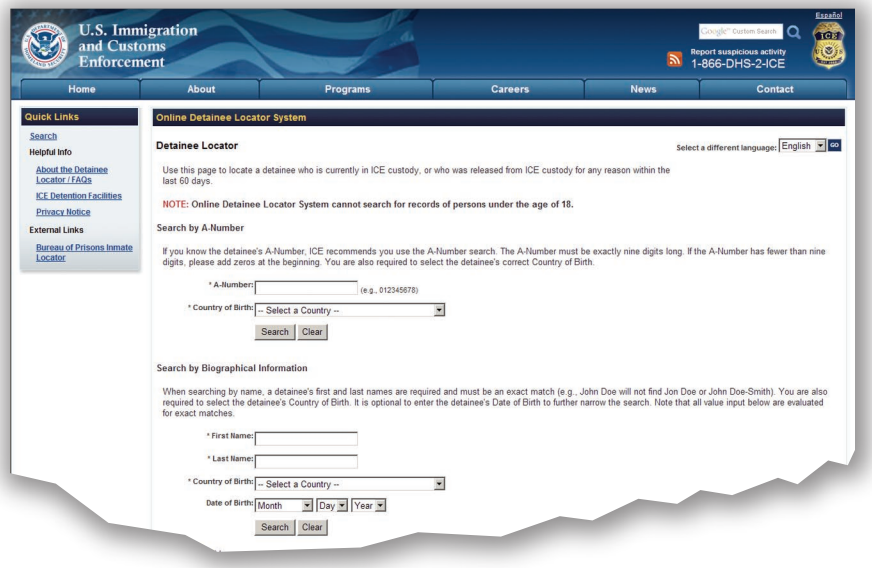
www.ice.gov/locator

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

What is the Online Detainee Locator System?

The Online Detainee Locator System (ODLS) is a public system available on the Internet that allows family members, legal representatives, and members of the public, to locate immigration detainees who are in ICE detention. To use the ODLS, please visit http://www.ice.gov/locator.

Previously, the only way to determine a detainee's location was by contacting an ICE Office of Detention and Removal Operations (DRO) office. As part of detention reform, ICE has deployed the ODLS so that family members and attorneys can locate detainees more easily online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The system is also available in Spanish, with more languages to come.



How does a family member or an attorney conduct a search to find an immigration detainee?

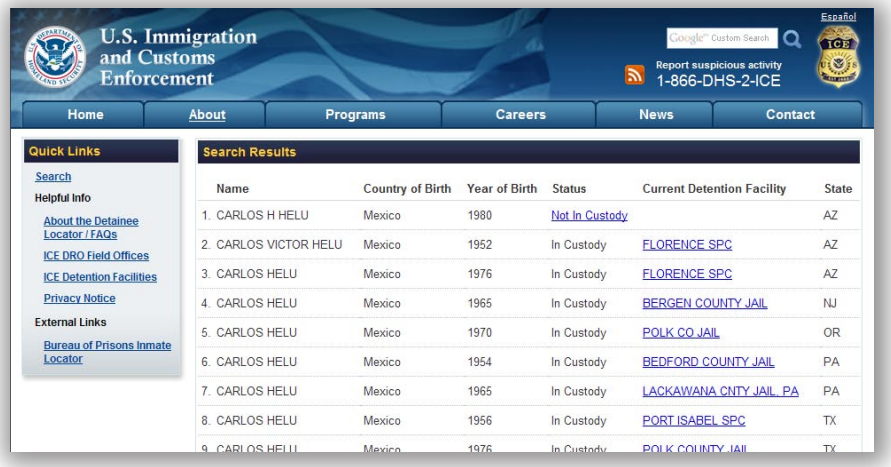
You can search the ODLS in two ways:

1. By Alien Registration Number (A-Number) and country of birth.

The best way to search the system is by using the detainee's A-Number and country of birth. The A-Number is the nine-digit identification number that is assigned to a person who applies for immigration benefits or is subject to immigration enforcement proceedings. The nine-digit A-Number may begin with zeros. A-Numbers are unique and are assigned one per person. The A-Number can be found in the top right corner of the Notice to Appear (NTA), Form I-862. Along with the A number, you need to input the detainee's country of birth, or

2. By last name, first name, and country of birth.

If you do not have the detainee's A-Number, you can search the system using a detainee's first and last name and country of birth. If you are unsuccessful in your search, consider entering variations of the detainee's name.



Do I have to know exactly how to spell a detainee's name?

Yes. The ODLS performs an exact-match search. This means that in order to find a detainee, you must enter the person's exact A-Number or their first and last name as it appears on his or her detention record. If you accidentally type an individual's information incorrectly, the system may not give you the correct result.

For example, a search for "Robert Smith" will not return a detention record for "Robert Smyth" or "Bob Smith."

When you search using an A-Number, only one record will appear in the results, because every person has a unique A-Number However, when you search using a person's name, many records may appear in the results if a lot of detainees share the same name and country of birth. When many records appear, look for the detainee's year of birth, which will also be listed in the results, or search using the detainee's A-Number.

What should I do if I still can't find anything after a search?

The ODLS only has information for detainees who are currently in ICE custody or who were released from ICE custody within the last 60 days. If you are unable to locate a detainee in the ODLS who is in ICE custody or was released from ICE custody within the last 60 days, please contact the appropriate ICE DRO field office. http://www.ice.gov/about/dro/contact.htm provides a list of the various DRO field offices and their contact information.