



OFFICE OF EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

KING COUNTY CODE § 2.15 REQUIREMENTS

Purpose: To provide King County departments and agencies with a detailed overview of requirements for [King County Code Section 2.15](#), based on Ordinance 18665:

1. PROVIDING ACCESS TO SERVICES

- 1.1 Unless required by law, the provision of county services shall not be conditioned on a person's citizenship or immigration status. [\(K.C.C. §2.15.010\)](#)
- 1.2 Except when otherwise required by the law, or in order to complete a federal I-9 employment eligibility verification form, King County will accept certain foreign photo identification documents presented as evidence of identity and shall not treat individuals presenting such documents any differently. [\(K.C.C. §2.15.010\)](#)
- 1.3 County employees/agents are prohibited from verbally abusing or coercing persons and from threatening to take immigration-related actions against them or their families. [\(K.C.C. §2.15.010\)](#)

2. MAINTAINING PERSONAL INFORMATION

2.1 Unless required by law for the purpose of determining eligibility or seeking reimbursement from federal, state or other third-party payers, all applications, questionnaires and forms used by King County shall be revised to ensure that the disclosure of citizenship or immigration status is not required.

[\(K.C.C. §2.15.010\)](#)

2.2 County employees/agents are instructed to refrain from inquiring about or requesting information about the citizenship or immigration status or place of birth of any person unless the inquiry is required to ensure compliance with any state or federal law, regulation or directive or court order. [\(K.C.C.](#)

[§2.15.010\)](#)

2.3 County employees/agents are not permitted to maintain or share any personal information including, but not limited to national origin, race, ethnicity, language proficiency, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, housing status, financial status, marital status, status as a victim of domestic violence, criminal history, release date from incarceration or confinement in a secure detention or other custody or status as a veteran, unless necessary to provide King County Services, or otherwise required by law, directive or court order. [\(K.C.C.](#)

[§2.15.010\)](#)

3. RESTRICTING THE USE OF AND ACCESS TO COUNTY RESOURCES

- 3.1 Except where laws, regulations or court orders require it, county employees/agents are prohibited from spending time, money or any other resources on facilitating or participating in immigration enforcement operations. However, in order to comply with federal law, county employees/agents are permitted, but are not required to, share information about an individual's immigration or citizenship status with federal immigration authorities. ([K.C.C. §2.15.020](#))
- 3.2 County departments, agencies and employees/agents are prohibited from permitting federal immigration authorities to access nonpublic areas of King County's facilities, property, equipment or nonpublic databases, or nonpublic portions of otherwise public databases, or people in King County's custody, unless presented with a criminal warrant issued by a United States District Court judge or magistrate specifying the information or persons sought, or unless required by law. ([K.C.C. §2.15.020](#))
- 3.3 Any warrantless attempts or requests for access to nonpublic facilities, property, equipment or nonpublic databases shall be handled by the department or agency director or their designee responsible for the operation of the facility, property database or equipment. ([K.C.C. §2.15.020](#))

4. REFUSING COLLABORATION WITH FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

- 4.1 Departments and agencies are prohibited from executing contracts or agreements granting immigration enforcement authority power to King County, its agents or law enforcement officers. [\(K.C.C. §2.15.020\)](#)
- 4.2 Honoring immigration detainer requests or administrative warrants issued by immigration enforcement authorities or holding any person upon the basis of an immigration detainer request is not permitted, unless such request or warrant is accompanied by a criminal warrant issued by a United States District Court judge or magistrate. [\(K.C.C. §2.15.020\)](#)
- 4.3 The King County sheriff's office shall not request specific documents relating to a person's civil immigration status or otherwise initiate inquiry, for the sole purpose of determining whether the person has violated federal civil immigration laws. [\(K.C.C. §2.15.015\)](#)
- 4.4 The King County Sheriff's Office or the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention shall not carry out a civil arrest or hold a person after the release date set by a court based on an administrative warrant separately or in combination with an immigration detainer. [\(K.C.C. §2.15.020\)](#)
- 4.5 Except when required by the law or a warrant, county employees/agents shall not disclose personal information, including place or birth, household members, the services received or the release date for any person. However, in order to

comply with federal law, county employees/agents are permitted, but are not required to, share information about an individual's citizenship or immigration status with immigration enforcement authorities. [\(K.C.C. §2.15.020\)](#)

5. NOTIFYING PEOPLE IN CUSTODY

- 5.1 Upon receiving any immigration detainer, notification or transfer request, Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention personnel must provide a copy of the document to the person in custody as well as information about whether the department plans to comply with the request. [\(K.C.C. §2.15.020\)](#)
- 5.2 Individuals in custody shall be informed through their attorney of their right to communicate with the consular post of the country of which they are a national. If the person wishes, consular officers have the right to visit, converse or correspond with them. [\(K.C.C. §2.15.020\)](#)
- 5.3 Identification as a foreign national shall be voluntary and based on informed consent by the person. [\(K.C.C. §2.15.020\)](#)

6. PROVIDING TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION

- 6.1 King County shall provide free interpretation and translation services to limited-English-proficient persons. [\(K.C.C. §2.15.030\)](#)
- 6.2 Limited-English-proficient persons must not wait unreasonably longer to receive assistance than persons who do not require interpretation. [\(K.C.C. §2.15.030\)](#)

- 6.3 Where an application or form administered by King County requires completion in English by a limited-English-proficient person, King County shall make reasonable efforts to provide oral interpretation of the application or form as well as acknowledgement by the limited-English-proficient person that the form was completed by an interpreter. [\(K.C.C. §2.15.030\)](#)
- 6.4 King County agencies shall provide support to contractors to meet language access requirements. [\(K.C.C. §2.15.030\)](#)
- 6.5 King County agencies and offices shall develop language assistance plans that outline translation needs based on the top six languages identified by the tier map of limited-English-proficient persons maintained by the Office of Equity and Social Justice and the county demographer. [\(K.C.C. §2.15.030\)](#)

7. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 7.1 Complaints regarding violations of this chapter of the King County Code shall be handled by the civil rights program, within the Office of Equity and Social Justice. [\(K.C.C. §2.15.100\)](#)
- 7.2 All records related to facilities, information and/or communication with immigration enforcement authorities shall be considered public records under the state Public Records Act and handled by King County in accordance with the usual procedures for receipt of public records requests. [\(K.C.C. §2.15.020\)](#)
- 7.3 All King County employees/agents must be trained on the provisions of section 2.15 of the Code. The Office of Equity and
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Social Justice will support training and monitoring activities related to implementation. ([K.C.C. §2.15.010](#))

An overview of this ordinance, and the implementation priorities for 2020 can be found [here](#).

If you have additional questions, please contact us:

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