



## PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY

### Community Awareness Notice Regarding Federal Law Enforcement Activity

January 20, 2026

The Nation's Executive leadership has received **multiple reports of federal immigration and customs enforcement ("ICE") activity occurring near the Yavapai-Apache Reservation**. While details continue to develop and reports vary, this advisory is being issued to ensure community members are informed, aware, and prepared.

In recent weeks, there have been reported incidents in other locations where members of federally recognized Tribes have been mistakenly arrested or detained during federal immigration enforcement actions.

The Nation's priority is the **safety, dignity, and well-being of our community members**. Leadership is actively monitoring the situation and remains in communication with YAPD, public safety officials, and legal counsel. Currently, YAPD has not been able to independently confirm all reported ICE activity, but the Nation believes it is important to share this information out of caution and care for the community.

Nation leadership encourages community members to remain calm and continue daily activities while staying informed through official Nation communications, including updates posted on the Nation's website, official social media pages, and notices posted at the Administration Office.

Community members who observe activity believed to be related to federal law enforcement operations are encouraged to report it to the **Yavapai-Apache Police Department (YAPD)** through established non-emergency channels at **928-649-7142**.

### What Community Members Should Know to Protect Themselves if Stopped by Federal Law Enforcement

The following information is provided to support personal safety and awareness if approached by federal law enforcement:

- Carry valid identification when possible, including your Tribal identification card and, if available, a state-issued ID or a U.S. passport or passport card.
- Remain calm and respectful if approached by law enforcement and avoid confrontation.
- Clearly state that you are a member of the Yavapai-Apache Nation, a federally recognized Tribe, and a citizen of the United States and the State of Arizona. Present your Tribal and state identification and any other available documentation.
- Politely ask if you are free to leave. If you are not free to leave, request an attorney and remain silent until you can speak with legal counsel.
- You have the right to remain silent and to request legal counsel if detained.
- Do not physically resist arrest, act aggressively, or attempt to flee.

If an encounter occurs, document the details if safely possible, including the identity of the officers involved, and report the encounter to the Yavapai-Apache Police Department.

**If You Are Detained or Arrested**

- Notify a family member or trusted friend as soon as possible.
- Contact the Nation when able.
- Do not sign any waivers, voluntary departure agreements, or other documents without first speaking with an attorney.

Community members with legal questions or who need assistance related to an encounter with federal law enforcement may contact the **Office of the Attorney General at 928-567-1040**.

The Nation's Leadership will continue to monitor the situation and share updates as appropriate. Community members are encouraged to rely on **official Nation communications** for accurate information.



Buddy Rocha, Jr.  
Chairman, Yavapai-Apache Nation