

## Supreme Court Decision in the *U.S. v. Texas* case

The Supreme Court just made a decision on the *U.S. v. Texas* case. This is the case that blocked the DAPA (Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents) and Expanded DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) programs. These programs would have provided temporary protection from deportation and work permits for people who qualified.

### What did the decision say?

In a 4-4 decision the Supreme Court said that the DAPA and expanded DACA programs will continue to be blocked. This means people cannot apply for them. The Supreme Court decided to uphold the lower court's decision blocking the programs.

### Is the case over?

No, the Supreme Court only decided to continue temporarily blocking the programs. The District Court Judge in Texas still has to decide whether DAPA and expanded DACA are constitutional. It will take months and possibly years for that to possibly go back to the Supreme Court. There may be other legal options also. For instance, the federal government could ask the Supreme Court to hear the case again when a 9<sup>th</sup> Justice is on the Supreme Court.

### Will ICE go after me?

Immigration has said they are deporting people who are "high priorities" for deportation. If you're not a high priority you should not be deported. High priorities include: people with felonies, serious misdemeanors or three or more minor misdemeanor convictions. It also includes people who entered the country after January 1, 2014 or who were ordered deported after that date. For more information about the enforcement priorities, visit: [http://www.adminrelief.org/resources/item.545114-Summary\\_of\\_New\\_Immigration\\_Enforcement\\_Priorities\\_and\\_Program\\_Changes\\_Annou](http://www.adminrelief.org/resources/item.545114-Summary_of_New_Immigration_Enforcement_Priorities_and_Program_Changes_Annou)

### What can I do now?

#### Know your rights!

ICE or local law enforcement can stop you at any time. You should know what to say and what not to say when stopped or questioned.

- [Learn more](#) about your rights at home and at work. Be prepared for an [ICE raid](#) by carrying a [know-your-rights card](#).
- Do not tell immigration officers your immigration status, your country of birth, or how you came to the United States. You always have the right to remain silent!

#### If you have a criminal conviction, check with an attorney to see if you can change it.

- In some states it is possible to change or "erase" your conviction. There are different ways to do this. Getting the court to get rid of your criminal conviction may make you less of a target for deportation.

If you have a prior deportation or removal order, check with an attorney or BIA-accredited representative.

- Having a recent removal order makes you a priority for deportation, so if you have a removal order, talk to an attorney or BIA-accredited representative to figure out whether you can reopen your old immigration case. (BIA-accredited representatives can be found at nonprofit organizations that help people with immigration matters.)

Talk to trusted, qualified legal service providers. Even though the expanded DACA and DAPA programs are not available you might qualify for some other immigration benefit through which you could receive protection from deportation, a work permit, and in some cases, lawful permanent residence (a “green card”).

- Visit <http://www.adminrelief.org/legalhelp/> for a list of free or low-cost nonprofit immigration legal service providers near you
- Never pay anyone who promises they will win your case or says you can get a work permit without applying for an immigration benefit.
- Only attorneys and BIA accredited representatives can give legal advice. In the U.S., notarios cannot give legal help and are not lawyers.

Remember that the original DACA program, launched in 2012, is still available and is NOT affected by the Supreme Court decision.

- Eligible undocumented immigrants can continue to apply for and renew DACA. People who are granted DACA receive temporary protection from deportation, a work permit, and a social security number.

### **Will there be any changes to immigration law?**

This is not the end of the road. DAPA and expanded DACA were just temporary measures intended to help some undocumented people. Remember that it was immigrant communities and allies who led the fight for these programs. We will continue to fight to improve the lives of immigrant communities.

There are many opportunities to get involved and advocate for changes to our immigration system in the future. The next Presidential election is more critical than ever as the next President will have the opportunity to appoint several Supreme Court justices.