



Official Statement

Contact: Rachel E. Wilson

Telephone: 208.621.4772

Email: rachelw@nezperce.org

Website: www.nezperce.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 16, 2026

Nez Perce Tribe Guidance on ICE Presence and Community Safety

The Nez Perce Tribe is committed to the safety, dignity, and well-being of our people. If U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is present in or near our communities, we want community members to know they are supported and not navigating these situations alone.

Tribal lands operate under tribal sovereignty, which is distinct from state and local jurisdictions. ICE does not have automatic authority to enter private homes, tribal housing, or tribal facilities without proper legal authorization. Community members are encouraged to remain calm, avoid sharing personal information, and not interfere with law enforcement activity.

ICE is a law enforcement agency, but it is not the same as general law enforcement. Its authority is narrow and specific to federal immigration enforcement, and the rules governing warrants, entry, and questioning differ from those that apply to tribal, local, state, or other federal agencies.

The Nez Perce Tribe affirms that Tribal membership is verified through official federal identification. Nez Perce Tribal ID cards are federally recognized and should be accepted upon presentation. If a Tribal ID is questioned, individuals may request to speak with a supervisor. Community members are strongly encouraged to carry valid identification. If you do not currently have a Tribal ID or Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB), or if you are a descendant requesting a Letter of Descent (which requires birth certificate), please contact the Enrollment Office at 208-843-2253 or enrollment@nezperce.org.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) recognizes and accepts photo identification cards issued by federally recognized Tribal Nations/Indian Tribes, including Enhanced Tribal Cards. The official letter of notice can be [found here](#).

Helpful Know Your Rights information from the Native American Rights Fund is available here: <https://narf.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/know-your-rights-ice-2026.pdf>

This guidance is provided to help keep our community informed, safe, and supported. The Nez Perce Tribe remains committed to standing with our people and upholding tribal sovereignty.

*****DISCLAIMER*****

The Nez Perce Tribe is providing this information for general educational purposes only. It is not legal advice and should not be relied on as such. Because every circumstance is different, please consult with a qualified attorney for advice specific to your situation.

###