

CHECKLIST: HANDLING VALUABLES

This checklist is part of a larger Manual titled “Protecting Assets and Child Custody in the Face of Deportation,” released by Appleseed in 2017. For more info and to read the full Manual, please visit www.AppleseedNetwork.org/DeportationManual.

This checklist is not legal advice. You can search for a lawyer at <http://www.aialawyer.org/>.

Valuables can include anything you have that is worth money or is important to you. First, figure out what types of valuables you have and make a list. They may include: electronics, jewelry, furniture, art, clothing, machinery, appliances, papers (license, ID card, passport, birth certificate), heirlooms or sentimental items.

- You have a few options for dealing with your valuables: you can sell them, transfer them to another person, ship them somewhere else, or store them in the US.
 - Think about what you’d like to do with your valuables in case anything happens and make a plan. For more help on planning, check out Chapter 15 of Appleseed’s Manual.
 - Let your family or friends know about your plan. Provide clear, written instructions.
 - Consider giving someone you trust limited “power of attorney” so they can help with the plan in case you are detained (check out Chapter 11 in Appleseed’s Manual for help on powers of attorney).

- Decide how you want your valuables handled if you are detained or deported.
 - Unfortunately, it is possible your stuff will be taken from you if you are detained. If your stuff is taken, you can petition to get it back by filing with Customs and Border Protection.
 - Avoid carrying a lot of cash. If you are detained, the cash will be taken from you right away. It may be returned later, but you don’t want to risk it.

Remember: The plan is to have a plan. You are taking the right steps to protect your family. Don't be afraid to ask for help so you get answers you can trust: try your lawyer or caseworker, or ask your child's school or doctor's office.