




U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

JAN 18 2013

Deputy Commissioner

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

FROM: David V. Aguilar 
Deputy Commissioner

SUBJECT: U.S. Customs and Border Protection Enforcement Actions at or
Near Certain Community Locations

The presence of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers and Agents conducting enforcement activities at or near schools, places of worship, and certain other community locations has been a sensitive issue. Accordingly, careful consideration and planning must be undertaken, as outlined herein, in relation to enforcement actions conducted at or near these establishments.

The following establishments should be considered to be within the context of this policy:

- schools, including pre-schools, primary schools, secondary schools, post-secondary schools, vocational or trade schools, and colleges and universities;
- places of worship, including places where funerals, weddings, or other public religious ceremonies are taking place;
- community centers; and
- hospitals.

CBP personnel should consult their supervisors for guidance when an enforcement action is being contemplated or planned at or near a location not specifically listed above but that may be similar in nature, description, or function. In assessing the appropriateness of a proposed action, supervisors should consider alternative measures that could achieve the enforcement objective without causing significant disruption to the normal activities or operations at the identified location, including the importance of the enforcement objective in furthering CBP's mission.

When CBP enforcement actions or investigative activities are likely to lead to an apprehension at or near such locations, written approval by the Chief Patrol Agent, Director of Field Operations, Director of Air and Marine Operations or the Internal Affairs Special Agent in Charge is required. The Deputy to these offices may approve the inspection of records, preliminary investigative activities, and similar activities at these locations where apprehensions are not likely to be made.

This policy does not summarily preclude enforcement actions at the listed locations. When situations arise that call for enforcement actions at or near the above-mentioned establishments without prior written approval, Agents and Officers are expected to exercise sound judgment and

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common sense while taking appropriate action. Exigent circumstances, including matters related to national security, terrorism, or public safety, requiring an Agent or Officer to enter these establishments, must be reported immediately through the respective chain of command, as applicable.

This policy does not limit or otherwise apply to CBP operations that are conducted at or near the international border (including the functional equivalent of the border), or CBP operations that bear nexus to the border including, for example, but not limited to smuggling interdiction efforts that result in transportation to a hospital, custodial monitoring of injured aliens in CBP custody that require hospitalization, or a controlled delivery from the border that concludes in close proximity of one of the aforementioned locations.

This CBP policy guidance memorandum, which may be modified, superseded, or rescinded by CBP at any time without notice, is not intended to, does not, and may not be relied upon to create, any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, for any party.

Distribution: Assistant Commissioner, Office of Air and Marine
Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations
Assistant Commissioner, Office of Internal Affairs
Chief, Office of Border Patrol
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