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IMMIGRATION

Trump authorizes ICE to target schools and churches

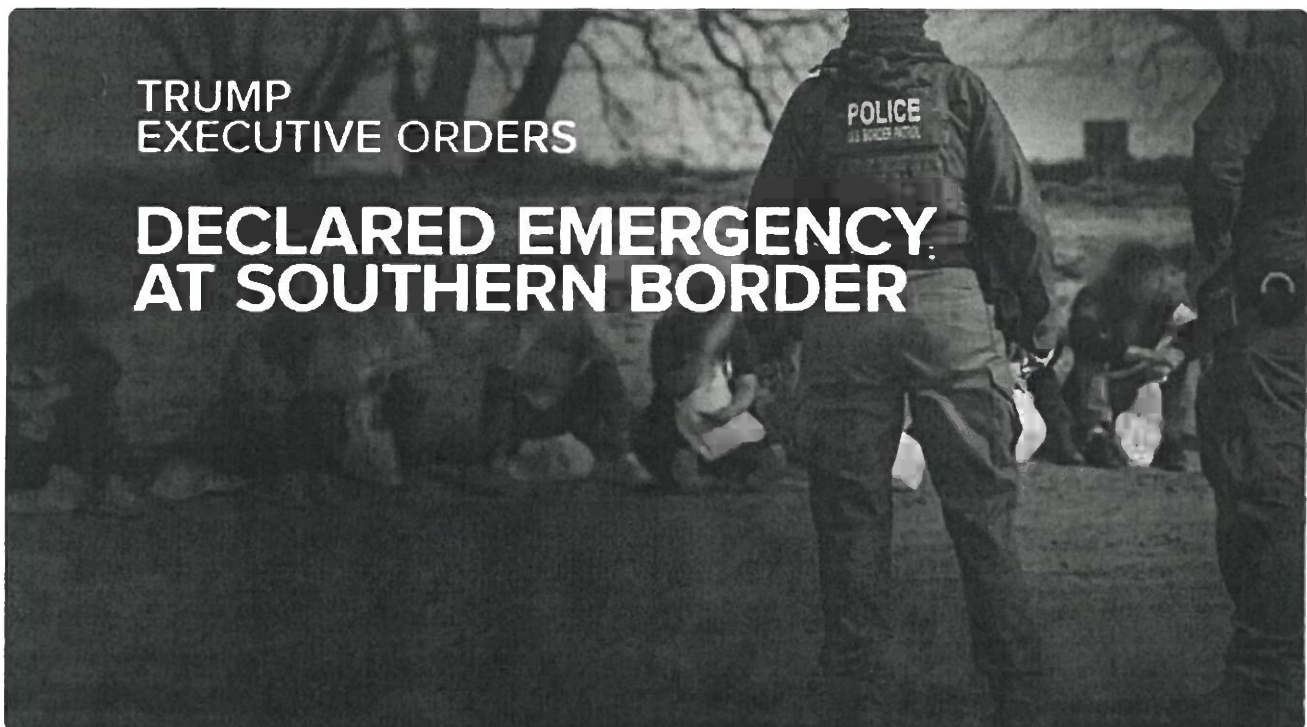
DHS said it would roll back a policy prohibiting arrests in 'sensitive' areas.

By Luke Barr and Julia Reinstein abc NEWS

Wednesday, January 22, 2025



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President Trump's bid to cut off birthright citizenship is a 'flagrantly unlawful attempt' to strip American-born children of citizenship

WASHINGTON -- Federal immigration authorities will be permitted to target schools and churches after President Donald Trump revoked a directive barring arrests in

"sensitive" areas.

The Department of Homeland Security announced Tuesday it would roll back the policy to "thwart law enforcement in or near so-called sensitive areas."

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First enacted in 2011, the directive prohibited Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Patrol officers from arresting suspected undocumented immigrants in a variety of locations.

Schools and houses of worship were deemed off-limits, as were hospitals, funerals, weddings and public demonstrations.

In a statement touting the move Tuesday, a spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security said law enforcement would use "common sense" in making arrests.

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"This action empowers the brave men and women in CBP and ICE to enforce our immigration laws and catch criminal aliens -- including murders and rapists -- who have illegally come into our country," the spokesperson said.

"Criminals will no longer be able to hide in America's schools and churches to avoid arrest," the statement continued. "The Trump Administration will not tie the hands of our brave law enforcement, and instead trusts them to use common sense."

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