**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
**DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

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| HILDA RAMIREZ SANAN; ANA MICHELLE RAMIREZ SANAN; J.R.S., a minor, by and through his mother and next friend, HILDA RAMIREZ SANAN<br><br>Plaintiffs,<br><br>v.<br><br>UNITED STATES,<br><br>Defendant. | Civil Action No. _____<br><br>**Complaint** |

## INTRODUCTION

1. This case arises from an unlawful, unwarranted, and stunningly cruel attack carried out by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers against Plaintiff Hilda Ramirez Sanan, a lawful permanent resident who has lived in the United States for twenty-five years, and Plaintiffs Ana Michelle Ramirez Sanan and J.R.S., her two U.S.-citizen children.[1]

2. At the time of the attack, Plaintiff Michelle was seventeen years old and Plaintiff J.R.S. was thirteen years old. J.R.S. has Autism Spectrum Disorder and limited verbal communication skills. Ms. Ramirez Sanan and her children are a close-knit family and long-standing members of their Chelsea, Massachusetts community.

[1] For ease of reference, Plaintiff Hilda Ramirez Sanan is referred to herein as "Ms. Ramirez Sanan," and Plaintiff Ana Michelle Ramirez Sanan is referred to as "Michelle." J.R.S., a minor, is proceeding by his initials. Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.2(a)(3). His face has been obscured in the pictures below.

3. On the morning of September 26, 2025, Ms. Ramirez Sanan was in her car with her son, J.R.S., and her two brothers-in-law. They were accompanying one of the brothers-in-law to a hearing at Chelsea District Court, located only a short distance from their house.

4. Suddenly, four unmarked vehicles surrounded and physically blocked her car. At least eight armed officers, wearing masks, hats, and sunglasses to conceal their identities, swarmed the vehicle. They did not identify themselves, give any orders to follow, or have any reason to suspect Ms. Ramirez Sanan or her son of any offense, immigration-related or otherwise.

5. Without asking for identification or providing an opportunity to comply with any orders, the ICE officers shattered the front and back driver-side windows of the family's car, sending shards of glass onto Ms. Ramirez Sanan. While yelling and brandishing at least one weapon, they arrested Ms. Ramirez Sanan's brothers-in-law. They then proceeded to forcefully pull Ms. Ramirez Sanan from the car, shove her against a chain-link fence, twist her arms behind her back to handcuff her, kick her down, and smash her into the ground face-first, causing her to lose consciousness. They did so while she cried out in pain and tried to tell them she had medical conditions. And they did so while her terrified children cried out in distress.

6. Ignoring the prominently displayed disability placard hanging next to J.R.S. in the passenger-side front seat, the officers also forcibly pulled the crying thirteen-year-old out of the car. They brought him against the chain-link fence next

to his wailing mother, physically surrounded him, and questioned him about his immigration status as he shook in visible distress. They threatened to arrest him if he did not answer their questions or show them his papers.

7. Plaintiff Michelle, Ms. Ramirez Sanan's daughter, had been waiting for her family at the courthouse. When she heard that her family's car had been stopped by ICE, she rushed to the scene. But an ICE officer grabbed her too, shoving her back away from her family, forcibly holding her hands and wrists, and physically preventing her from approaching her mother and brother. When she cried out to the ICE officers that her brother had autism, one told her to "shut up." She was forced to witness the unlawful detention and assault of her family, powerless to intervene.

8. Throughout, Ms. Ramirez Sanan, along with neighbors and other bystanders who knew the family, repeatedly told the ICE officers that she has legal status. The ICE officers willfully ignored that information and did not ask Ms. Ramirez Sanan about her status or attempt to check her identification, which she was carrying in her purse.

9. The ICE officers began to drag Ms. Ramirez Sanan, whose legs had given out, to one of their unmarked vehicles. Just before they could force her—bruised, battered, and handcuffed—inside, local police intervened and requested that the ICE officers check Ms. Ramirez Sanan's identification. Now under the watch of local law enforcement, the ICE officers reviewed Ms. Ramirez Sanan's identification, released her from their custody, and left the scene.

10. Throughout the entire incident, ICE officers had no legal basis to detain, arrest, or use excessive physical force against any of the Plaintiffs. The officers' conduct violated the U.S. Constitution, federal statute, federal regulations, and multiple agency policies, and also constitutes tortious conduct under Massachusetts law.

11. While shockingly cruel, ICE's attack on the Ramirez Sanan family was no aberration. Rather, it was part of the agency's pattern of "smash and grab" operations: Unidentified, masked officers descend on a family, needlessly brandish weapons, violently abuse vulnerable individuals—including, in this case, a disabled U.S. citizen child and a lawful permanent resident with health issues—destroy their property, and inflict lasting trauma on them and their community, all without any legal justification.

12. As a result of ICE's illegal actions, the Ramirez Sanan family has suffered, and continues to suffer, severe harm, including financial harm, lasting physical injury, and profound emotional trauma.

13. The family brings this action to redress these devastating harms and to seek accountability for the ICE officers' unconstitutional, violent, and harrowing tortious acts—acts which are part of a pattern and practice of abusive tactics sanctioned by ICE leadership.

14. Defendant is liable for the ICE officers' unlawful conduct under the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA), 28 U.S.C. §§ 1346(b)(1), 2671 *et seq.*

## JURISDICTION AND VENUE

15. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1346(b).

16. Venue is proper in the District of Massachusetts under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1402(b) because the acts, events, and omissions giving rise to this complaint occurred in Massachusetts, and Plaintiffs are residents of Massachusetts.

17. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e).

18. On December 15, 2025, Plaintiffs filed an administrative complaint with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and ICE pursuant to the FTCA's presentment requirement. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2675(a). As the government has failed to make final disposition of Plaintiffs' claim within the six-month statutory period, Plaintiffs have satisfied that statute's administrative exhaustion requirements.

## PARTIES

19. Plaintiff Hilda Ramirez Sanan is fifty-one years old, a lawful permanent resident, and has lived in the United States for over twenty years. She has two children, both of whom are citizens of the United States. She resides with them in Chelsea, Massachusetts.

20. Plaintiff Ana Michelle Ramirez Sanan, who goes by Michelle, is Ms. Ramirez Sanan's daughter. She was seventeen at the time of the incident. She is a United States citizen, and she resides with her mother and brother in Chelsea, Massachusetts.

21. Plaintiff J.R.S. is Ms. Ramirez Sanan's son and Michelle's younger brother. He was thirteen at the time of the incident. He is also a United States citizen. He brings this lawsuit through Ms. Ramirez Sanan as his mother and next friend due to his minor status. He resides with his mother and sister in Chelsea, Massachusetts.

22. Defendant United States, acting through DHS and ICE, is the appropriate defendant for FTCA claims. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1346(b).

## FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

### *ICE's Unlawful Attack*

23. On the morning of September 26, 2025, Ms. Ramirez Sanan was riding in her car with her family. She was accompanying her brother-in-law, J.R.P., to a hearing scheduled for nine o'clock at the Chelsea District Court.

24. F.R.P., who is also Ms. Ramirez Sanan's brother-in-law, was driving her car.

25. Ms. Ramirez Sanan, her children, and her brothers-in-law are all Latino.

26. Plaintiff Ms. Ramirez Sanan sat behind F.R.P., in the back seat on the driver's side of the car. J.R.P. sat next to Ms. Ramirez Sanan, in the back seat on the passenger side.

27. Also in the car was Plaintiff J.R.S., Ms. Ramirez Sanan's thirteen-year-old son. J.R.S. was sitting in the front seat, on the passenger side, next to his uncle.

28. J.R.S. has Autism Spectrum Disorder and limited verbal communication skills.

29. A disability placard hung prominently from the rearview mirror to alert the public and law enforcement about J.R.S.'s condition. It was clearly visible on the morning of September 26, 2025.

30. At about 8:30 a.m., as the car approached the courthouse, four unmarked vehicles suddenly surrounded the car.

31. ICE's unmarked vehicles prevented the car from moving in any direction. F.R.P. stopped the car and kept his hands visible on the steering wheel. Within seconds, at least eight visibly armed ICE officers surrounded the vehicle.

32. The officers concealed their faces with hats, masks, and sunglasses. None of the officers identified themselves or their agency, though some wore vests that were marked "Police."

33. Without asking the family any questions, issuing any orders, or providing a basis for the stop, the officers used a sharp tool to shatter the front and back driver-side windows of Ms. Ramirez Sanan's car.

34. The officers' blows to the windows caused shards of glass to fly into the car and hit Ms. Ramirez Sanan and F.R.P.

35. Once the windows were shattered, the officers reached into the car to unlock the car doors.

36. The officers then opened the front driver-side door, and one officer, standing directly in front of the shattered window, pointed a gun at F.R.P., who was

unarmed and not resisting and whose hands were visible on the steering wheel. Simultaneously, other officers reached into the car to unbuckle F.R.P.'s seatbelt, pull him out of the car, handcuff him, and then put him in one of their vehicles.

37. Other officers opened the passenger-side doors, while armed officers continued to surround the car, so Ms. Ramirez Sanan and J.R.S. could not leave.

38. Terrified and confused, Ms. Ramirez Sanan began trying to document the officers' behavior by recording it on her phone.

39. In those recordings, Ms. Ramirez Sanan, who speaks limited English, cried out to the officers through the shattered glass of her car's windows, "You . . . not listen to me . . . this is my son, these are my brothers . . . Why? What happened? You broke my car!"[2] Ms. Ramirez Sanan also desperately asked the officers why they were hiding their faces.

40. Though Ms. Ramirez Sanan repeatedly asked the officers to explain themselves, none offered any explanation or justification for their stop or their actions.

41. As Ms. Ramirez Sanan was pleading with the officers, one of them reached into the back seat of the car to handcuff her brother-in-law, J.R.P. Then they took him to one of their vehicles.

42. Thirteen-year-old J.R.S. was terrified as he watched these events. He has limited verbal communication skills and was sobbing uncontrollably and shaking in the front seat of the car while the officers shattered the car windows,

[2] This video—and other videos from bystander witnesses—can be viewed at: https://lawyersforcivilrights.org/ramirez/.

violently removed his uncles from the car, and loomed, masked and armed, in front of the open car door next to him.

43. J.R.S.'s disability placard hung inches from him on the rearview mirror and was clearly visible to the officers. The officers made no attempt to understand or accommodate his disability.

44. Instead, after F.R.P. and J.R.P. had been arrested, an officer reached into the car to unbuckle J.R.S.'s seatbelt and grabbed his arms to forcibly pull him out of the car.

45. Also after F.R.P. and J.R.P. had been arrested, an officer reached into the car to confiscate Ms. Ramirez Sanan's phone, which she had been using to film the ICE officers.

46. The officer then forcibly pulled Ms. Ramirez Sanan out of the car by grabbing her right arm and dragging her across the back seat to the passenger side of the car.

47. The officers forced Ms. Ramirez Sanan against a nearby fence.

48. As the officers did so, Ms. Ramirez Sanan pleaded with them. She continuously cried out in distress that she had legal status, that she has back pain, and that they were hurting her. The officers ignored Ms. Ramirez Sanan. They did not ask for her identification, which was in the purse she was visibly wearing, nor did they make any other attempt to verify her identity or legal status.

49. Instead, the officers pushed Ms. Ramirez Sanan face-first into the fence. They forcibly twisted her arms behind her back to handcuff her, continuing to ignore her cries of distress.

50. At no point did the ICE officers produce a warrant for Ms. Ramirez Sanan or have any reason to believe that she lacked legal status, had committed any crime, posed a flight risk, or was in any way a threat to the ICE officers or others nearby.

51. Another officer brought J.R.S. up against the same fence where his mother was being violently restrained. The officer stood directly in front of J.R.S. and grabbed his shoulder to prevent him from leaving. J.R.S. was still crying and shaking in fear, unable to leave and terrified for his family and himself.

52. Next to him, Ms. Ramirez Sanan was petrified, writhing in pain, crying, and screaming, frantically and repeatedly trying to communicate that her son has Autism Spectrum Disorder, that she has back problems, and that she is a lawful permanent resident.

53. Michelle had been waiting at the courthouse for her family when she learned that ICE had detained her mother and brother.

54. She rushed to find them and arrived to see ICE officers violently restraining and handcuffing her mother and detaining her sobbing brother nearby.

55. As Michelle tried to run to her mother and brother, an armed and masked ICE officer blocked her from reaching her family. The officer physically pushed her backward. He also restrained her by holding her wrists, which caused

her pain. The officer held her in that position for approximately three to five minutes.

56. Panicked and distraught, Michelle continuously cried out for her family. She witnessed her mother and brother in great distress and was physically restrained from helping them. She feared her mother would be taken away, further harmed, or even deported, and that she would never see her again. Michelle had heard reports of families being separated by ICE—even when they had legal status—and she was terrified that her family was next.

57. When Michelle repeatedly told the officers, "my brother has autism," an ICE officer responded by telling her to "shut up."

58. A bystander who was filming tried to explain that Michelle was there for her mother. On the video, the bystander begs the officers to let Michelle go, saying "please, please, please," "that's her daughter," "she's gotta help."

59. The bystander also begged the officers to let J.R.S. go, telling them repeatedly that J.R.S. was "sick."

60. ICE officers did not make any attempt to understand these concerns, nor did they let Michelle, J.R.S., or Ms. Ramirez Sanan go.

61. Instead, as her children watched, one of the officers kicked Ms. Ramirez Sanan's leg. That officer, along with two others, aggressively slammed Ms. Ramirez Sanan face down against the concrete sidewalk, causing her to briefly lose consciousness. The officers sharply twisted Ms. Ramirez Sanan's arms back to handcuff her.

62. J.R.S. sobbed as his mother was thrown to the ground and handcuffed.

ICE officers pinning Ms. Ramirez Sanan to the ground while J.R.S., in the navy blue sweatshirt, cries in the background.

63. The ICE officer next to J.R.S. began interrogating him. The officer asked the thirteen-year-old if he had legal status, how old he was, and who he lived with.

64. This questioning was the first attempt by any ICE officer to determine whether any of the Plaintiffs could legally be the target of immigration enforcement. The officers did not ask anyone else present, including his mother, whether J.R.S. had legal status.

65. As the officer questioned him, J.R.S. continued shaking and crying in terror and confusion.

66. J.R.S. has limited verbal skills because of his Autism Spectrum Disorder. Due to his disability—as well as his fear and confusion—he was unable to answer the officer. He is also only thirteen years old and does not have a driver's license or carry other proof of his American citizenship. Ignoring J.R.S.'s age, obvious emotional distress, and disability, the officer threatened to arrest J.R.S. if he did not answer or provide proof of legal status.

J.R.S.'s distress as the officers detain and interrogate him next to the violent arrest of his mother.

67. At no point did the ICE officers produce a warrant for the teenager or have any reason to believe J.R.S. lacked legal status, had committed any crime, posed a flight risk, or was in any way a threat to the ICE officers or others nearby.

68. As Ms. Ramirez Sanan was forcibly restrained, the officers continued to exercise physical control over Ms. Ramirez Sanan's children and detain them.

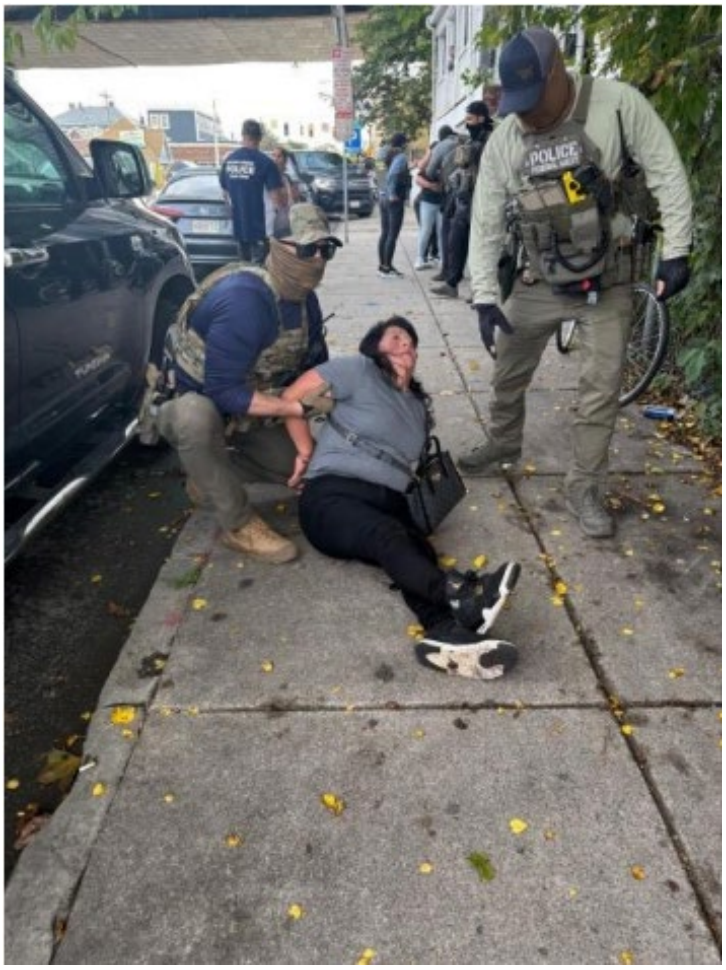
69. One officer moved J.R.S. away from his mother, and the officers continued to surround both J.R.S. and Michelle and block them from reaching their mother.

An ICE officer detaining both Michelle, in light blue jeans and a black shirt, and J.R.S., in a navy blue sweatshirt. Michelle pleads with the officer while attempting to comfort her terrified brother.

70. As with the other Plaintiffs, at no point did the ICE officers present a warrant for Michelle or have any reason to believe the teenager lacked legal status, had committed any crime, posed a flight risk, or was in any way a threat to the ICE officers or others nearby.

71. As her children watched, Ms. Ramirez Sanan continued to suffer intense physical pain. Michelle and J.R.S. were extremely distressed to witness her suffering.

72. With her terrified children still detained behind her, the ICE officers began to drag Ms. Ramirez Sanan, battered, bruised, and handcuffed, to one of their unmarked cars.




ICE officers beginning to drag Ms. Ramirez Sanan, on her back, along the sidewalk while Michelle and J.R.S. are detained by ICE officers behind her.

73. Ms. Ramirez Sanan was in so much pain from the ICE officers' attack that she was unable to physically support herself or walk on her own.

74. As officers dragged Ms. Ramirez Sanan away, a community member who knew Ms. Ramirez Sanan repeatedly yelled to ICE that Ms. Ramirez Sanan has legal status.

75. That community member recorded a portion of ICE's unlawful acts. On the recording the community member tells the ICE officers, "she is a U.S. citizen, don't you understand? She has ID! Check her ID."

76. The officers did not check Ms. Ramirez Sanan's ID, which she had in the purse around her body.

77. Instead, the officers told the community member to stay back as they continued their unlawful arrest of Ms. Ramirez Sanan.

The officers dragging and beginning to force Ms. Ramirez Sanan into one of their unmarked vehicles.

78. The officers moved Ms. Ramirez Sanan, who was still restrained, toward one of their unmarked vehicles.

79. Just as the officers were about to force Ms. Ramirez Sanan into their vehicle, officers from the Chelsea Police Department and members of the Chelsea Fire Department arrived and requested that the ICE officers check Ms. Ramirez Sanan's identification.

80. Until this point, the ICE officers had made no attempt to investigate the immigration status of Ms. Ramirez Sanan, even though she had proof of her immigration status in her purse. Instead, they willfully ignored information from her and from knowledgeable bystanders who told the ICE officers that she has lawful immigration status and that she is legally entitled to be present in the United States with her U.S.-citizen children.

81. After the local police asked the ICE officers to confirm Ms. Ramirez Sanan's immigration status, the ICE officers quickly and easily determined that Ms. Ramirez Sanan had lawful permanent resident status.

82. Under the watch of local law enforcement, the officers then released Ms. Ramirez Sanan and left the scene with F.R.P. and J.R.P. in their custody.

83. The ICE officers' attack on the family lasted approximately a half hour.

84. After the ICE officers left, Ms. Ramirez Sanan still could not walk because of the violence they inflicted on her. Local firefighters had to carry her to a chair for evaluation and emergency assistance.

Members of the Chelsea Fire Department carrying Ms. Ramirez Sanan after the ICE officers' violent attack.

85. While emergency personnel evaluated Ms. Ramirez Sanan, local police attended to Ms. Ramirez Sanan's children. Michelle, who has asthma, was having a panic attack and trying to calm herself down.

Michelle trying to calm herself down while a neighbor brings Michelle and J.R.S. water.

86. Ms. Ramirez Sanan and her children then took an ambulance to the hospital emergency room for further medical evaluation.

87. After the family received medical assistance, they went to the police station to attempt to file a report against ICE for their violent and unlawful actions. The police department told the family there was nothing they could do about the conduct of the federal officers.

***ICE Officers' Unlawful Attack Harmed and Continues to Harm Plaintiffs***

88. ICE's unlawful conduct harmed and continues to harm all three Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs' harm includes physical harm, financial harm, and devastating mental and emotional harm.

89. During the assault, the ICE officers' violent and illegal conduct caused Plaintiffs profound terror, confusion, and panic. They all also suffered nonconsensual and unprivileged confinement and use of force against them by the ICE officers.

90. Ms. Ramirez Sanan suffered extreme physical pain during ICE's attack. And her children suffered intense emotional distress watching their mother being physically harmed and in severe pain.

91. J.R.S. also suffered emotional distress in response to ICE officers detaining and questioning him.

92. Michelle suffered additional mental and emotional harm out of fear for her brother's safety and a deep concern that their mother would be harmed or taken from the family.

93. Plaintiffs continued to suffer after the ICE officers left.

94. In the immediate aftermath of the ICE officers' attack, Ms. Ramirez Sanan was unable to walk. She had to be carried to a chair by firefighters who responded to the scene. An ambulance took all three Plaintiffs to the emergency room to undergo medical evaluation.

95. At Ms. Ramirez Sanan's examination, physicians identified a number of physical harms, including pain in her right arm, an abrasion on her left shoulder, and dizziness because of the head trauma she had suffered when she was roughly slammed to the ground and lost consciousness. Her left shoulder; her right arm, wrist, and hand; and the left side of her chest were all painful to the touch. Ms.

Ramirez Sanan also had limited mobility in her right wrist, which was bruised and swollen. She experienced pain in her lower back and right hip. She also had a headache and was nauseous.

96. The doctors gave Ms. Ramirez Sanan a blood test, several X-rays, and a CT scan for her head and spine to determine if ICE's assault caused a brain bleed or spinal fracture. She was also treated with painkillers and anti-nausea medication. The doctors assessed that she likely had a radial nerve injury and referred her to a consult with a hand surgeon. They also noted that she may have been concussed.

97. While at the hospital, Ms. Ramirez Sanan was seen by a social worker. Her medical team ordered a consult with the social worker "for abuse and neglect in the context of assault by ICE." The social worker characterized her mood as "anxious, helpless, despair." She was "tearful and express[ed] significant worry and stress about the impact of the traumatic event she and her family experienced" on her family's wellbeing, which the social worker noted was "understandabl[e]." Ms. Ramirez Sanan felt despair in her situation and fear for her family going forward.

98. Ms. Ramirez Sanan's pain, trauma, and physical difficulties persisted after the assault, and continue to this day. Over the past year, she has juggled appointments with specialists, social workers, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and psychiatrists to attempt to treat the full manifestation of her pain and trauma.

99. Although Ms. Ramirez Sanan had access to immediate medical care, her issues did not resolve. Months after the incident, on January 16, 2026, one of Ms. Ramirez Sanan's physical therapists reported that she still had trouble climbing stairs, that she "[a]lternates between sitting and lying down most of the day," and that she is unable to work because of pain and weakness.

100. Ms. Ramirez Sanan's physical harm from the assault has included pain and numbness in her wrist and face, limited mobility in her wrist, stiffness in her legs, and pain in her pelvis from when the officers handcuffed her and pushed her against the sidewalk.

101. To this day, Ms. Ramirez Sanan is receiving therapy for her arm. She is still using a brace and still has pain.

102. Ms. Ramirez Sanan has also continued to struggle mentally and emotionally. For a long time after the incident, she would cry every day. To cope with the aftermath of the assault, Ms. Ramirez Sanan sees a psychiatrist and social worker regularly. She also began taking medication for depression and anxiety because of the ICE officers' attack.

103. The ICE officers' attack also caused Ms. Ramirez Sanan severe anxiety and sleeplessness. Although she takes medication to help her sleep, she has frequent nightmares. Often a family member will stay over at her house to keep her company and help her get back to sleep in the middle of the night. Ms. Ramirez Sanan hides the extent of her night terrors from her children as much as she can.

104. Ms. Ramirez Sanan is also suffering because of what her children experienced and continue to endure, and her inability to protect them from it.

105. Since ICE's attack on her family, Michelle has been suffering from anxiety and depression. She has had trouble sleeping and experienced frequent headaches from the stress from ICE's attack. She regularly sees a social worker and a psychiatrist and started taking medication to treat her anxiety and depression. Her doctor recently increased the dosage of that medication.

106. Michelle's somatic symptoms have been severe enough to necessitate a consultation with a neurosurgeon. She has had headaches and panic attacks, and she has blacked out.

107. The attack negatively affected Michelle's life in other ways, too. Because of Ms. Ramirez Sanan's injuries and condition, Michelle has had to take on significant responsibility to support her family, even though she is just a teenager. This pressure and responsibility compound her stress.

108. Michelle had just begun her senior year of high school when the ICE officers attacked her family. She was looking forward to enjoying her last year of high school with her friends but was instead frequently forced to miss school to deal with her and her family's medical issues and follow-up appointments related to their injuries and trauma from the attack.

109. Even when Michelle was able to be physically present in school, she nevertheless had difficulty focusing on her schoolwork because of the attack and its

effects. Between the missed school and her difficulty focusing related to the attack, her grades suffered.

110. Because the attack occurred near her family's home, Michelle often has to drive by the scene where it happened. This frequent reminder causes her severe anxiety.

111. Michelle has also lost the sense of security and safety in her family's citizenship and legal status she had before the attack. Now, each time she or a family member leaves the house she worries that ICE officers will follow or attack them again.

112. Even as Michelle begins college and tries to move forward with her next chapter, the aftermath of the attack continues to weigh heavily on her life.

113. The attack also profoundly affected J.R.S. Due to his youth and disability, he has had an extremely difficult time processing ICE's attack on him and his family. Since the attack, he has suffered migraines, frequent crying fits, and nightmares. He has woken up from his nightmares screaming, "don't kill my mom."

114. J.R.S. also must pass the scene of the attack frequently due to the family's proximity to it. J.R.S. is retraumatized each time, saying, "that's where they hurt my mom."

115. The first time J.R.S. tried to get back into his mother's car, he panicked and called Michelle crying because it was so painful for him to remember what took place there. To this day, it is still hard for J.R.S. to be in his mother's

car, but Ms. Ramirez Sanan's car is the family's only form of transportation to therapy appointments, school, and the hospital, so J.R.S. must relive the attack.

116. J.R.S. began taking medication for anxiety and depression for the first time after the attack. He has also had difficulty managing his frustration and behavior. He now gets frustrated easily and has a hard time leaving the house to go to school or spend time with friends.

117. J.R.S. has also had trouble walking since the attack. He is seeing a neurologist and a physical therapist.

118. J.R.S. already had limited verbal capabilities because of his Autism Spectrum Disorder, and it is challenging for him to express himself after the attack. His difficulty communicating makes it harder for others to help him process his feelings about the attack and overcome its effects. He is seeing a social worker and a psychiatrist to try to help him work through the trauma.

119. Both Ms. Ramirez Sanan and Michelle feel the strain of caring for J.R.S. in the aftermath of the attack, particularly while they are learning to live with their own injuries and trauma.

120. Michelle has always been protective of her younger brother, and it is devastating for her to see him suffering and to be unable to help him heal.

121. The family also suffered economic harm. ICE's attack left Ms. Ramirez Sanan's car unusable in their driveway, with bags covering the shattered windows, for nearly a month, until the family could afford the approximately $500 cost of the repair.

122. While they were deprived of their only reliable means of transportation, the family had to use paid transportation, get rides, or walk to their many appointments with doctors, psychiatrists, social workers, occupational therapists, and physical therapists. This deprivation compounded the difficulty and cost of attending these appointments and impaired the family's ability to begin to recover after ICE's attack.

123. Perhaps most significantly, because ICE's raids continue, the family—who once felt safe from attacks or immigration enforcement due to their legal status—now lives in persistent fear that they will be unlawfully targeted again. This fear permeates every aspect of their lives, affecting if, when, and how they leave their house. And because they live in a community that ICE frequently targets, they regularly experience fear and intimidation from ICE's presence.

124. In all these ways and others still, ICE's illegal attack on Plaintiffs has caused them continuing physical, mental, emotional, and financial harm.

***ICE's Pattern of Unlawful Conduct***

125. ICE's attack on the Ramirez Sanan family was not an isolated incident, but rather was part of an ongoing pattern of illegal conduct.

126. Since January 2025, the Trump administration has put pressure on ICE to carry out aggressive immigration enforcement efforts nationwide. To meet quotas, ICE officers routinely arrest individuals based solely on perceived race, ethnicity, and national origin, without verifying their immigration status.[3] As a

[3] Melissa Hellmann, *'It's Like They're Hunting': US Citizens and Legal Residents Report Increase in Racial Profiling by ICE,* The Guardian (Jan. 23, 2026), https://www.theguardian.com/us-

result, ICE has unlawfully detained and arrested hundreds of innocent U.S. citizens and legal residents.[4]

127. In Massachusetts specifically, ICE launched two major operations. The first was "Operation Patriot," which began in May 2025, and the second was "Operation Patriot 2.0," which began in September 2025—the same month that Plaintiffs were attacked by ICE.[5] These operations resulted in thousands of arrests, including of many people who, like Plaintiffs, have legal status.[6]

128. ICE officers routinely use excessive force in their immigration enforcement efforts throughout the country, including in Massachusetts.

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news/2026/jan/22/us-citizens-racial-profiling-ice; José Olivares, *Trump Administration Sets Quota to Arrest 3,000 People a Day in Anti-Immigration Agenda*, The Guardian (May 29, 2025), https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/may/29/trump-ice-arrest-quota.

[4] Nicole Foy et al., *506 U.S. Citizens Detained*, ProPublica (Oct. 6, 2026), https://projects.propublica.org/american-citizens-detained-dhs-civil-rights/; Jazmine Ulloa, Allison McCann & Jennifer Medina, *'I'm From Here!': U.S. Citizens Are Ending Up in Trump's Dragnet*, N.Y. Times (Sept. 29, 2025), https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/29/us/trump-immigration-agents-us-citizens.html; Denise C. Bell & Naureen Shah, *Agents of Chaos and Cruelty: How the Trump Administration's National Deportation Policing Force Has Attacked American Communities*, ACLU, 24-25 (July 16, 2026), https://www.aclu.org/publications/agents-of-chaos-and-cruelty-how-the-trump-administrations-national-deportation-policing-force-has-attacked-american-communities; Nicole Foy, *Why Have Immigration Agents Detained This American Citizen Three Times?*, ProPublica (May 15, 2026), https://www.propublica.org/article/immigration-leo-garcia-venegas-arrests-detentions-citizens-ice-dhs.

[5] WBUR News & Wire Servs. & Simón Rios, *ICE Launches New Immigration Enforcement Surge in Mass.*, WBUR (Sept. 8, 2025), https://www.wbur.org/news/2025/09/08/september-ice-surge-massachusetts-boston-arrests.

[6] *See* Sarah Betancourt, *Immigration Arrests Increase in Massachusetts with New ICE Operation*, GBH (Sept. 10, 2025), https://www.wgbh.org/news/local/2025-09-08/immigration-arrests-increase-in-massachusetts-with-new-ice-operation; Simón Rios, *ICE Enforcement in Mass. Nets 1,400 Arrests in September. Less than Half Had 'Significant' Criminal Background*, WBUR (Oct. 16, 2025), https://www.wbur.org/news/2025/10/16/massachuessts-ice-arrests-september; Ally Jarmanning, *East Boston Man Legally in U.S. Arrested by ICE and Held for Nearly 2 Days*, WBUR (Aug. 6, 2025), https://www.wbur.org/news/2025/08/06/ice-arrest-lawsuit-jose-pineda-legal-status-immigration-detention; Louisa Moller, *Massachusetts Family Says Father Is Being Wrongfully Detained, ICE Denies Claim*, CBS News (Oct. 1, 2025), https://www.cbsnews.com/boston/news/ice-arrest-lowell-massachusetts/.

129. One well-documented example of ICE's violent tactics is using a weapon to shatter car windows on top of passengers. For example, a report from July 2025 documented nearly fifty incidents in which ICE officers shattered vehicle windows with batons or sledgehammers.[7] ICE officers use this tactic without regard to whether vulnerable persons are present, like children (as here), pregnant women, and elderly or disabled individuals.[8]

130. ICE officer violence is pervasive and routine, and ICE officers are indiscriminate about doling it out: Among other violent acts, officers have "dragged, tackled, beaten, tased, and shot" American citizens.[9]

131. ICE leaders know, and have known for some time, that their officers use these unlawful and abusive tactics throughout the country, including in Massachusetts.[10]

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[7] Nicole Foy & McKenzie Funk, *"We'll Smash the Fucking Window Out and Drag Him Out,"* ProPublica (July 31, 2025), https://projects.propublica.org/trump-ice-smashed-windows-deportation-arrests; Michael Casey & Rodrique Ngowi, *Family Says ICE Agents Smashed Car Window in Seizing Guatemalan Man Who's Seeking Asylum*, Associated Press (Apr. 17, 2025), https://apnews.com/article/ice-detention-francisco-mendez-new-bedford-5c5eb62788e58159f3a27915b4416062.

[8] *See, e.g.*, Compl., *Guerrero v. United States*, No. 26-cv-11126, ECF No. 1 (D. Mass. Mar. 5, 2026).

[9] Nicole Foy & Sarahbeth Maney, *We Found That More than 170 U.S. Citizens Have Been Held by Immigration Agents. They've Been Kicked, Dragged and Detained for Days*, ProPublica (Oct. 16, 2025), https://www.propublica.org/article/immigration-dhs-american-citizens-arrested-detained-against-will.

[10] *See, e.g.*, *Guerrero* Compl., *supra* note 8; Mercedes París & Solangi Sosa, *Worker Arrested by ICE in Lynn, Later Released, Says Agents Beat Him in Cemetery*, NBC Bos. (June 6, 2025), https://www.nbcboston.com/news/local/worker-arrested-by-ice-in-lynn-released-a-day-later-says-he-was-beaten-in-custody/3733701/; Billal Rahman & Dan Gooding, *ICE Knew of Increased Use of Force on US Citizens and Migrants, Emails Show*, Newsweek (Feb. 18, 2026), https://www.newsweek.com/ice-excessive-force-citizens-migrants-emails-11537351; Casey & Ngowi, *supra* note 7.

132. Indeed, many of these incidents are recorded and reported. Because they occur openly in highly public places, bystanders and the media have increasingly documented and publicized ICE's aggressive and unlawful tactics.

133. ICE has prioritized enforcement numbers over legality in its training and supervision of ICE officers, resulting in a pattern and practice of unlawful arrests and detentions.

134. While ICE has ramped up hiring to support its more aggressive enforcement campaigns,[11] it has scaled back necessary training to ensure its officers lawfully exercise their authority.[12]

135. As one former ICE employee testified to Congress, this ineffective training will result in "ICE . . . graduat[ing] thousands of new officers who do not know their constitutional duty, do not know the limits of their authority and who do not have the training to recognize an unlawful order."[13]

136. In addition to inadequate training, ICE has also specifically instructed officers that they can, and should, behave illegally.[14]

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[11] Eric Katz, *ICE More than Doubled Its Workforce in 2025*, Gov't Exec. (Jan. 5, 2026), https://www.govexec.com/workforce/2026/01/ice-more-doubled-its-workforce-2025/410461/.

[12] *Id.* (reporting that DHS shortened the training period for ICE agents from six months to around six weeks).

[13] Michael Kaplan & Camilo Montoya-Galvez, *ICE Whistleblower Warns New Recruits Are Receiving "Defective" Training*, CBS News (Feb. 23, 2026), https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ice-whistleblower-new-recruits-receiving-defective-training (describing ICE training as "deficient, defective, and broken").

[14] Michael Loria, *ICE Teaches Cadets to 'Violate the Constitution,' Ex-DHS Attorney Testifies*, USA Today (Feb. 23, 2026), https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2026/02/23/ice-is-teaching-cadets-to-violate-the-constitution-former-dhs-attorney-testifies/88834696007/ (describing orders to train ICE cadets to act unconstitutionally).

137. ICE has also failed to adequately supervise its officers. DHS and ICE have failed to discipline officers engaged in unlawful arrests.[15] ICE has kept officers accused of excessive force on the job even while this illegal conduct is still being investigated.[16] ICE has ignored, permitted, or condoned unlawful behaviors, like using a weapon to violently shatter car windows.[17] And by allowing immigration officers to shield their identity during operations, with masks, sunglasses, and hats, ICE further impedes efforts to hold officers accountable for their misconduct.

***Legal Protections Against ICE's Unconstitutional and Unlawful Conduct***

138. ICE's actions against Plaintiffs, as described above, violated multiple mandatory, non-discretionary constitutional, statutory, regulatory, and other legal duties.

139. To begin, the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution "applies to all seizures of the person, including seizures that involve only a brief detention short of traditional arrest" and are made in the course of immigration enforcement. *United States v. Brignoni-Ponce*, 422 U.S. 873, 878 (1975). "[W]henever a [law enforcement] officer accosts an individual and restrains his freedom to walk away, he has 'seized' that person," *Terry v. Ohio*, 392 U.S. 1, 16 (1968), and the seizure must be "reasonable." *Brignoni-Ponce*, 422 U.S. at 878. "[P]robable cause [is

[15] Foy & Funk, *supra* note 7 (describing how a Maryland immigration officer, Matthew Elliston, who was involved in a window-smashing incident, was later promoted to a senior position that oversees field operations on the East Coast).
[16] Ximena Bustillo, *ICE Officer Accused of Excessive Force, Then Sent Back to Work Despite Active Probe*, NPR (Dec. 24, 2025), https://www.npr.org/2025/12/24/nx-s1-5650773/ice-immigration-agent-leave-oversight.
[17] *See* sources at note 7.

required] for any further arrest and detention." *Morales v. Chadbourne*, 793 F.3d 208, 215 (1st Cir. 2015).

140. Internal DHS policy reflects this constitutional boundary, stating that "a Fourth Amendment 'seizure' of a person occurs when an officer, 'by means of physical force or show of authority, terminates or restrains his freedom of movement.'"[18]

141. ICE officers acted in violation of the Fourth Amendment when they effected multiple unreasonable seizures against Plaintiffs, who each had, and still have, lawful immigration status.

142. First, ICE officers blocked and surrounded Ms. Ramirez Sanan's car, with one pointing a gun, so as to prevent Ms. Ramirez Sanan and J.R.S. from leaving the car. Second, and separately, the officers forcibly physically restrained or otherwise blocked the freedom of movement of all three Plaintiffs. Each of these seizures was unreasonable: the officers did not have reasonable suspicion or probable cause that Plaintiffs had violated any law, were unlawfully present in the United States, or posed any risk.

143. Federal immigration statutes, regulations, and policies further limit the authority of ICE agents to seize individuals. Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1357, which governs ICE, immigration officers may only make a warrantless arrest if they have "reason to believe that the alien so arrested

[18] DHS, Policy Statement 044-05, *Update to the Department Policy on the Use of Force* 2 n.2 (Feb. 6, 2023) (quoting *Brendlin v. California*, 551 U.S. 249, 254 (2007)), https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2023-02/23_0206_s1_use-of-force-policy-update.pdf.

is in the United States in violation of any [immigration] law or regulation *and* is likely to escape before a warrant can be obtained for his arrest." 8 U.S.C. § 1357(a)(2) (emphasis added). The "reason to believe" phrase in § 1357 is the equivalent of "probable cause." *Morales*, 793 F.3d at 216-17.

144. Consistent with the statute, ICE regulations require officers to obtain a warrant "except when the designated immigration officer has reason to believe that the person is likely to escape before a warrant can be obtained." 8 C.F.R. § 287.8(c)(2)(ii).

145. An ICE officer must also "[i]dentify himself or herself as an immigration officer" in a timely and adequate manner. 8 C.F.R. § 287.8(c)(2)(iii)(A).

146. Ms. Ramirez Sanan was arrested in violation of each of these authorities when ICE officers did not identify themselves, dragged her from her car, forcibly detained her, kicked her, slammed her against the pavement, handcuffed her, and dragged her in an attempt to force her into their unmarked vehicle—all without probable cause (or even reasonable suspicion), without a warrant, and without any reason to believe she was likely to escape.

147. ICE officers' use of force is also limited by the Constitution and federal law. The Fourth Amendment prohibits excessive force, taking into account "the severity of the crime at issue, whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others, and whether he is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight." *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386, 396 (1989).

148. Federal regulations further the constitutional prohibition on excessive force. Under 8 C.F.R. § 287.8(a)(1)(iii), an immigration officer "shall *always* use the *minimum* non-deadly force necessary to accomplish the officer's mission and shall escalate to a higher level of non-deadly force *only* when such higher level of force is warranted by the actions, apparent intentions, and apparent capabilities of the suspect, prisoner, or assailant" (emphasis added).

149. DHS's Use of Force policy, which sets forth Department-wide standards and guidelines related to DHS officers' use of force, similarly cabins officers' use of force to only when "no reasonably effective, safe, and feasible alternative appears to exist" and limits officers to the level of force that is "objectively reasonable" under the circumstances.[19] "[W]hen feasible, prior to the application of force," an agent "must attempt to identify themselves and issue a verbal warning to comply."[20] And officers must stop using force when "resistance ceases or when the incident is under control."[21] The DHS policy confirms that "[t]he use of excessive force is unlawful and will not be tolerated," and "[t]hose who engage in such misconduct, and those who fail to report such misconduct, will be subject to all applicable administrative and criminal penalties."[22]

150. ICE's internal Firearms and Use of Force policy forms another layer of protection for the public and mirrors the requirements of the DHS version.[23] It also

[19] DHS, *Update to the Department Policy on the Use of Force*, *supra* note 18, at 2.
[20] *Id.*
[21] *Id.*
[22] *Id.*
[23] ICE, Directive 19009.3, *Firearms and Use of Force* (May 26, 2023), https://www.ice.gov/doclib/policy/19009.3.pdf.

states that officers "must employ tactics to de-escalate . . . to stabilize, slow, or reduce the intensity of a potentially violent situation without using physical force."[24]

151. As detailed above (¶¶ 33-79) and below (¶¶ 176-77), ICE officers used excessive force against Plaintiffs throughout their entire interaction with the family, in violation of the Fourth Amendment and the regulations and other authorities applicable to ICE officers.

152. The Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution also forbids government actors from depriving any person of "life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." U.S. Const. amend. V.

153. ICE officers violated Plaintiffs' Fifth Amendment rights in the conscience-shocking manner in which they needlessly restrained and abused Plaintiffs, depriving them of their liberty and dignity.

154. All of these constitutional, statutory, regulatory, and policy-based restrictions on ICE's ability to forcefully stop, seize, and assault individuals are intended to protect civilians from arbitrary harassment and abuse. They create mandatory, non-discretionary obligations. ICE officers violated these non-discretionary authorities with their unconstitutional and unlawful attack on the Ramirez Sanan family on September 26, 2025.

[24] *Id.*

## CAUSES OF ACTION

### COUNT I — FTCA, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2671–2680
### False Imprisonment
### (On Behalf of All Plaintiffs)

155. The foregoing allegations are re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

156. Under Massachusetts law, false imprisonment is the intentional imposition "by force or threats" of "an unlawful restraint upon freedom of movement" of the plaintiff. *Wax v. McGrath*, 151 N.E. 317, 318 (Mass. 1926).

157. On September 26, 2025, ICE officers intentionally and unlawfully restrained Plaintiffs' freedom of movement in multiple ways.

158. First, the immigration officers surrounded the family's car, with Ms. Ramirez Sanan and J.R.S. inside. They did so with unmarked vehicles and armed officers, at least one of whom was brandishing his gun. By blocking the vehicle and through their show of authority—including their use of force against F.R.P. and J.R.P.—the officers restricted Ms. Ramirez Sanan's and J.R.S.'s freedom to move.

159. ICE officers further restrained Plaintiffs' freedom of movement when they pulled J.R.S. and Ms. Ramirez Sanan from the vehicle and forcibly and violently restrained Ms. Ramirez Sanan against the fence and then handcuffed her against the ground.

160. ICE officers then dragged Ms. Ramirez Sanan to their vehicle while she was handcuffed, furthering their false arrest of her. *See Wallace v. Kato*, 549

U.S. 384, 388 (2007) ("False arrest and false imprisonment overlap; the former is a species of the latter.").

161. The ICE officers brought J.R.S., a child with a disability, up against a fence with an officer standing directly in front of him, questioning him, and occasionally grabbing his shoulder to prevent him from leaving. He was told he would be arrested if he did not respond to the officer, despite having limited verbal communication ability due to his Autism Spectrum Disorder. This restricted his freedom of movement.

162. The ICE officers also blocked and restrained Michelle's movement when she arrived at the scene, including by grabbing her wrists.

163. Finally, the officers physically blocked J.R.S. and Michelle from leaving the fence while other ICE officers dragged their mother away to force her into one of their unmarked vehicles.

164. The ICE officers had no reasonable justification for restricting Plaintiffs' freedom of movement by force or threat of force. Plaintiffs have lawful immigration status; the officers had no warrant for Plaintiffs and no reason or probable cause to believe that any Plaintiff was violating any law, posed a risk of escape, or was a threat to anyone.

165. As a direct and proximate result of the officers' false imprisonment, Plaintiffs have suffered, and continue to suffer, harm and damages, including, but not limited to, physical, mental, and emotional distress.

166. Under the FTCA, the United States is liable for the acts or omissions taken by its agents, officials, and employees acting within the scope of their employment. Because the ICE officers were investigative or law enforcement officers of the United States acting within the scope of their duties as federal officers, the United States is responsible for the damages Plaintiffs sustained as a result of their unlawful conduct.

**COUNT II — FTCA, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2671–2680**
**Assault**
**(On Behalf of All Plaintiffs)**

167. The foregoing allegations are re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

168. In Massachusetts, assault is "an act which puts another in reasonable apprehension of imminent harmful or offensive contact, that is, an attempted battery or an immediately threatened battery." *Conley v. Romeri*, 806 N.E.2d 933, 939 n.6 (Mass. App. Ct. 2004) (citing Restatement (Second) of Torts § 21 (A.L.I. 1965)).

169. In multiple ways, ICE officers placed Plaintiffs in reasonable apprehension of imminent harmful or offensive contact. Masked and armed, they swarmed and threateningly surrounded Ms. Ramirez Sanan and J.R.S. in their vehicle without identifying themselves; without any warning, they smashed the car windows while the two Plaintiffs were in the car; and they displayed weapons—one even pointed a gun at F.R.P.'s head near the shattered window—while violently arresting Ms. Ramirez Sanan's brothers-in-law.

170. Officers forced Michelle and J.R.S. to watch as officers forcibly attacked and arrested their mother, kicking her and slamming her to the ground, putting each of them in reasonable apprehension of harmful or offensive contact. Both children were in close proximity to their mother as this happened; J.R.S. was even right next to her.

171. As alleged above (¶¶ 33-79), officers did all this without any reasonable cause or justification.

172. As a direct and proximate result of the assault, Plaintiffs have suffered, and continue to suffer, harm and damages, including, but not limited to, physical, mental, and emotional distress.

173. Under the FTCA, the United States is liable for the acts or omissions taken by its agents, officials, and employees acting within the scope of their employment. Because the ICE officers were investigative or law enforcement officers of the United States acting within the scope of their duties as federal officers, the United States is responsible for the damages Plaintiffs sustained as a result of their unlawful conduct.

**COUNT III — FTCA, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2671–2680**
**Battery**
**(On Behalf of All Plaintiffs)**

174. The foregoing allegations are re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

175. Under Massachusetts law, one is liable to another for battery "if [a] he acts intending to cause a harmful or offensive contact with the person of the other

or a third person, or an imminent apprehension of such a contact, and [b] a harmful contact with the person of the other directly or indirectly results." *Waters v. Blackshear*, 591 N.E.2d 184, 185 (Mass. 1992) (alterations in original) (quoting Restatement (Second) of Torts § 13 (A.L.I. 1965)). Law enforcement officers have the right "to use such force as [i]s reasonably necessary to overcome any resistance which [a suspect] offer[s]; but the [officer] ha[s] not the right to use unreasonable or excessive force." *Powers v. Sturtevant*, 85 N.E. 84, 84 (Mass. 1908). This standard is "essentially the same as the [F]ourth [A]mendment analysis required under *Graham*." *Dean v. City of Worcester*, 924 F.2d 364, 369 (1st Cir. 1991).

176. ICE officers, without warning and without cause, smashed the windows of Plaintiffs' vehicle with J.R.S. and Ms. Ramirez Sanan inside, sending shards of glass into the interior and onto Ms. Ramirez Sanan. Officers also forcibly pulled both J.R.S. and Ms. Ramirez Sanan by the arms out of the vehicle. Officers put J.R.S. and Ms. Ramirez Sanan against a nearby fence. Officers shoved Ms. Ramirez Sanan into the fence, forcibly and painfully twisting her arms behind her back, before kicking her, bringing her to her knees, slamming her to the ground and handcuffing her.

177. An officer also forcibly grabbed Michelle's arms and pushed her back as she sought to comfort her disabled little brother.

178. Throughout, ICE officers deliberately took actions that escalated the situation, in the face of neither necessity nor provocation. Those actions included intentional, harmful, and offensive contact with Plaintiffs.

179. None of this was justified by any privilege, exigency, or any other reasonable cause.

180. As a direct and proximate result of the batteries, Plaintiffs have suffered, and continue to suffer, harm and damages, including, but not limited to, physical, mental, and emotional distress.

181. Under the FTCA, the United States is liable for the acts or omissions taken by its agents, officials, and employees acting within the scope of their employment. Because the ICE officers were investigative or law enforcement officers of the United States acting within the scope of their duties as federal officers, the United States is responsible for the damages Plaintiffs sustained as a result of their unlawful conduct.

**COUNT IV — FTCA, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2671–2680**
**Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress**
**(On Behalf of All Plaintiffs)**

182. The foregoing allegations are re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

183. To establish a claim for intentional infliction of emotional distress (IIED) under Massachusetts law, a plaintiff must show "(1) that the actor intended to inflict emotional distress or that he knew or should have known that emotional distress was the likely result of his conduct; (2) that the conduct was 'extreme and outrageous,' was 'beyond all possible bounds of decency' and was 'utterly intolerable in a civilized community'[;] (3) that the actions of the defendant were the cause of the plaintiff's distress; and (4) that the emotional distress sustained by the plaintiff

was 'severe' and of a nature 'that no reasonable man could be expected to endure it.'" *Agis v. Howard Johnson Co.*, 355 N.E.2d 315, 318-19 (Mass. 1976) (citations omitted).

184. All Plaintiffs suffered severe emotional distress that was directly caused by the ICE officers' extreme and outrageous conduct. Ms. Ramirez Sanan and J.R.S. were terrorized by armed, masked ICE officers who intentionally and without cause: surrounded their car; smashed the windows and sent glass shards flying at them without giving anyone in the car a chance to cooperate; did not identify themselves and refused to answer questions; and dragged them or their family members out onto the street, where they handcuffed them, harmed them, and intimidated them in front of family members, including by brandishing a gun.

185. They caused this distress intentionally and without any attempt at mitigation. They had no reason to even engage with Ms. Ramirez Sanan or J.R.S. outside of her vehicle, and they purposefully disregarded information that would have led any reasonable officer to stop or moderate their treatment of Plaintiffs, including information about J.R.S.'s disability and Ms. Ramirez Sanan's lawful status.

186. The ICE officers' extreme and outrageous conduct included forcibly removing Ms. Ramirez Sanan and J.R.S. from the vehicle after both of Ms. Ramirez Sanan's brothers-in-law had been removed from the vehicle and detained, despite the plainly visible disability sign, Ms. Ramirez Sanan's pleas, J.R.S.'s terrified cries, and the absence of any exigency or other justification. Officers then pressed both

Plaintiffs against a nearby fence. Plaintiffs were in public, in the city they call home, and in plain view of anyone passing by, including people who knew them.

187. Ms. Ramirez Sanan further suffered pain and humiliation as officers kicked her, slammed her on the ground, handcuffed her, and dragged her toward an unmarked vehicle in front of her distraught children. She felt profound fear for herself and her children, as well as shame and anger at ICE's outrageous conduct.

188. ICE officers also knew or should have known that J.R.S. was a minor child, and they did recognize, or should have recognized, his obvious distress. But instead of de-escalating, an armed officer loomed over him for much of the encounter, badgered him with questions and threatened to arrest him. Any reasonable officer would or should have known that any minor child, let alone one with limited verbal abilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder, would be profoundly mentally and emotionally distressed by such treatment. When an ICE officer was directly provided information about J.R.S.'s disability by Michelle, his only response was to tell Michelle to "shut up."

189. Both Michelle and J.R.S. were further harmed by seeing ICE's intentional and shockingly inhumane treatment of their mother. Not only did ICE agents physically abuse her while she cried out in pain, they also dragged her toward a vehicle despite directly receiving information about her legal status.

190. They did so amid widely publicized accounts of ICE agents invading communities, including Chelsea, and illegally detaining U.S. citizens and lawful

permanent residents, separating them from their families, and in some instances even deporting them unlawfully.

191. Michelle was further harmed by being physically restrained and unable to help her younger brother, knowing he was especially vulnerable and deeply distraught.

192. As a direct and proximate result of the ICE officers' extreme and outrageous conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered, and continue to suffer, harm and damages, including mental and emotional distress.

193. Under the FTCA, the United States is liable for the acts or omissions taken by its agents, officials, and employees acting within the scope of their employment. Because the ICE officers were investigative or law enforcement officers of the United States acting within the scope of their duties as federal officers, the United States is responsible for the damages Plaintiffs sustained as a result of their unlawful conduct.

**COUNT V — FTCA, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2671–2680**
**Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress**
**(On Behalf of All Plaintiffs)**

194. The foregoing allegations are re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

195. Under Massachusetts law, the elements of negligent infliction of emotional distress are: "(1) negligence; (2) emotional distress; (3) causation; (4) physical harm manifested by objective symptomatology; and (5) that a reasonable person would have suffered emotional distress under the circumstances of the case."

*Lanier v. President & Fellows of Harvard Coll.*, 191 N.E.3d 1063, 1072 (Mass. 2022) (citation omitted).

196. ICE officers owed Plaintiffs a duty to exercise reasonable care in conducting law enforcement operations. *See, e.g.*, 8 C.F.R. § 287.8 (standards for enforcement activities).

197. ICE officers breached that duty when, without reasonable suspicion or probable cause that Plaintiffs had violated federal law, lacked lawful status, or were likely to flee, they detained Plaintiffs, and without cause and despite known or apparent vulnerabilities, inflicted excessive and escalating violence to their persons and property.

198. As a direct and proximate result of ICE officers' conduct, which was negligent at best, Plaintiffs suffered and continue to suffer severe mental, emotional, and physical distress, which has manifested in objective, physical signs, including recurring nightmares, insomnia, anxiety, depression, panic attacks, headaches, and uncontrollable crying.

199. Any reasonable person in Plaintiffs' positions would have suffered emotional distress under the same circumstances.

200. Under the FTCA, the United States is liable for the acts or omissions taken by its agents, officials, and employees acting within the scope of their employment. Because the ICE officers were investigative or law enforcement officers of the United States acting within the scope of their duties as federal

officers, the United States is responsible for the damages Plaintiffs sustained as a result of their unlawful conduct.

**COUNT VI — FTCA, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2671–2680**
**Negligent Supervision**
**(On Behalf of All Plaintiffs)**

201. The foregoing allegations are re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

202. In Massachusetts, to establish a claim of negligent supervision, a plaintiff must prove "(1) that the persons whose actions form the basis of the claim were agents and/or employees of the defendant employer; (2) that the agents and employees came into contact with members of the public in the course of their employer's business; (3) that the employer failed to use reasonable care in the selection, supervision and retention of the agents and employees; and (4) that the failure to use such reasonable care was the proximate cause of harm to the plaintiffs." *Limone v. United States*, 497 F. Supp. 2d 143, 233 (D. Mass. 2007), *aff'd on other grounds*, 579 F.3d 79 (1st Cir. 2009).

203. "Once an employer knows or should know that an employee is committing torts against a third person, the employer has a duty to take *some* action such as investigation, discharge, or reassignment." *Limone*, 497 F. Supp. 2d at 233.

204. The ICE officers involved with the assault on Plaintiffs were at all relevant times acting under the direction, supervision, and control of ICE supervisory personnel.

205. Numerous publicly documented incidents of misconduct put ICE supervisors on notice that ICE agents were repeatedly violating the law in the same manner the officers here did—including by unlawfully smashing windows and detaining U.S. citizens—yet they failed to take preventative or corrective action. *Supra* ¶¶ 126-37.

206. By ignoring, permitting, or condoning misconduct that was known, should have been known, or was reasonably foreseeable, and by otherwise failing to effectively train, properly oversee officers, enforce standards, or penalize misconduct, ICE supervisors failed to use reasonable care and they engaged in negligent supervision.

207. It is outside the range of supervisory discretion to allow the constitutional and legal violations that were regularly occurring and occurred here. Rather, it amounts—at minimum—to a failure to exercise supervision.

208. As a direct and proximate result of ICE officials' negligent failure to supervise ICE officers, a non-discretionary obligation, Plaintiffs suffered and continue to suffer mental, emotional, and physical distress.

209. Under the FTCA, the United States is liable for the acts or omissions taken by its agents, officials, and employees acting within the scope of their employment. Because the ICE officers were investigative or law enforcement officers of the United States acting within the scope of their duties as federal officers, the United States is responsible for the damages Plaintiffs sustained as a result of their unlawful conduct.

**COUNT VII — FTCA, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2671–2680**
**Trespass to Chattels**
**(On Behalf of Hilda Ramirez Sanan)**

210. The foregoing allegations are re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

211. Massachusetts law provides "[r]ecovery or relief for trespass or injury to a chattel . . . where physical harm is shown." *Smith v. Wright*, 2013 Mass. App. Div. 24, 30 (2013) (citation omitted). A person is liable for trespass to chattels if "(a) he dispossesses the [possessor] of the chattel, or (b) the chattel is impaired as to its condition, quality, or value, or (c) the possessor is deprived of the use of the chattel for a substantial time, or (d) bodily harm is caused to the possessor, or harm is caused to some person or thing in which the possessor has a legally protected interest." *Id.* (citation omitted).

212. Ms. Ramirez Sanan is the owner of the family vehicle.

213. The ICE officers' action of shattering the vehicle's windows resulted in physical damage to the vehicle, Ms. Ramirez Sanan's dispossession of the vehicle, and bodily harm to Ms. Ramirez Sanan from the shattered glass. The family was unable to use the vehicle for almost a month while they saved up money for the approximately $500 repair.

214. Under the FTCA, the United States is liable for the acts or omissions taken by its agents, officials, and employees acting within the scope of their employment. Because the ICE officers were investigative or law enforcement officers of the United States acting within the scope of their duties as federal

officers, the United States is responsible for the damages Plaintiff sustained as a result of their unlawful conduct.

**COUNT VIII — FTCA, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2671–2680**
**Conversion**
**(On Behalf of Hilda Ramirez Sanan)**

215. The foregoing allegations are re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

216. Under Massachusetts law, "[t]he elements of conversion may be established by a showing that one person exercised dominion over the personal property of another, without right, and thereby deprived the rightful owner of its use and enjoyment." *In re Hilson*, 863 N.E.2d 483, 491 (Mass. 2007) (citation omitted).

217. Ms. Ramirez Sanan is the owner of the family vehicle.

218. The officers committed conversion when they destroyed the windows of Ms. Ramirez Sanan's vehicle and deprived her of the ability to use and enjoy the vehicle.

219. Under the FTCA, the United States is liable for the acts or omissions taken by its agents, officials, and employees acting within the scope of their employment. Because the ICE officers were investigative or law enforcement officers of the United States acting within the scope of their duties as federal officers, the United States is responsible for the damages Plaintiff sustained as a result of their unlawful conduct.

## PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court enter a judgment against Defendant and award the following relief:

a. Compensatory damages pursuant to the FTCA in an amount to be proven at trial;

b. Attorneys' fees and costs as allowable by law, including by the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412; and

c. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Hilda Ramirez Sanan, Ana Michelle Ramirez Sanan, and J.R.S.

By their attorneys,

*/s/ Edwina Clarke*

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