

MOTEL 6 CASE DESCRIPTIONS

Case #1: A mother of four U.S. citizen children, ages 2 to 11, took refuge with her family at the Motel 6 Black Canyon in June 2017 to escape the blistering Arizona heat in their apartment, which lacks air conditioning. During check-in, she presented a Mexican document known as a *matricular consular* for identification. Before dawn on the following morning, they were awakened by a loud banging on their motel room door by men who identified themselves as “police.” They were, in fact, not local police, but three agents wearing jackets emblazoned with Department of Homeland Security logos. After questioning her about her identity and the purpose of her stay, the woman was placed in removal proceedings and ordered to report a few days later to the Phoenix Field Office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). When she asked an agent there why she had been sought out and whether Motel 6 had provided her information to ICE, the agent laughed and said her name had just “popped up” in the system. She says the encounter with the ICE agents the motel scared her children and her older daughters remain deeply concerned about the family’s future.

Case #2: A Tucson resident who had secured a new job in Phoenix traveled there last summer with his wife and their three U.S. citizen children. The family checked in to the Motel 6 Phoenix West, where the father presented his Mexican driver’s license to the front-desk clerk for identification. Early the next morning, around 5:30 a.m., he was in his car preparing to drive to his new job when he was confronted by ICE agents who addressed him by name and asked him to confirm his identity. He was then arrested and taken to the ICE Phoenix Field Office. Meanwhile, other agents banged on the motel room door and awakened the man’s wife and children. The family was informed that the father had been arrested and detained. He was later transferred to a detention center in Florence, where he was held for 33 days before being released on \$7,500 bond. The wife reports that her children were traumatized by the incident and that the couple’s 8-year-old is now in therapy.

Case #3: A Phoenix resident checked in to the Motel 6 Black Canyon in May 2017 accompanied by his U.S. citizen wife and their five children. They were awakened the next day by agents who said they were responding to a report of “disorder or noise” and claimed to be looking for a man with the same last name but a different first name; the agents claimed that they thought he was the same man because he resembled a man in a photograph. He was arrested and later transferred to the detention center in Florence, where he was held for five days before being released on \$10,000 bond.

Case #4: A couple who were having repairs done on their Phoenix home checked into the Motel 6 Phoenix West in July 2017. The man presented his Mexican passport for identification. The next morning they were confronted by three ICE agents who entered their motel room and questioned the couple, who were then fingerprinted and placed in handcuffs. They were taken to the ICE Phoenix Field Office, where they were separated, fingerprinted and photographed. The man was informed that he would be issued a “Notice to Appear” and would be released on

\$3,000 bond, but the woman – who was recovering from recent surgery – was to be immediately deported. He was allowed to see her for less than five minutes before she was taken to the Florence detention center. She was deported the next day and remains in Mexico.