

Maine police officer arrested by ICE agrees to leave the country

Jon Luke Evans was arrested on July 25 despite being told he was legally authorized to work in the US

A [Maine](#) police officer [arrested by immigration authorities](#) has agreed to voluntarily leave the country, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said Monday.

Old Orchard Beach Police Department reserve Officer Jon Luke Evans, of [Jamaica](#), was arrested by [ICE officials](#) on July 25, as part of the agency's effort to step up immigration enforcement.

Officials with the town and police department have said federal authorities previously told them Evans was legally authorized to work in the U.S.

An ICE representative said Monday that a judge has granted voluntary departure for Evans and that he could leave as soon as that day. The representative did not provide other details about Evans' case.

Evans' arrest touched off a dispute between Old Orchard Beach officials and ICE. Police Chief Elise Chard has said the department was notified by federal officials that Evans was legally permitted to work in the country, and that the town submitted information via the [Department of Homeland Security](#)'s E-Verify program prior to Evans' employment.

Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security Tricia McLaughlin then accused the town of “reckless reliance” on the department's E-Verify program.

E-Verify is an online system that allows employers to check if potential employees can work legally in the U.S.

Officials with Old Orchard Beach did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

ICE's detainee lookup website said Monday that Evans was being held at the Donald W. Wyatt Detention Facility in Central Falls, Rhode Island. However, a representative for Wyatt said Evans had been transferred to an ICE facility in Burlington, [Massachusetts](#). ICE officials did not respond to requests for comment on the discrepancy.

It was unclear if Evans was represented by an attorney, and a message left for him at the detention facility was not returned.

ICE officials said in July that Evans overstayed his visa and unlawfully attempted to purchase a firearm. WMTW-TV reported Monday that Evans' agreement to a voluntary departure means he will be allowed to leave the U.S. at his own expense to avoid being deported.

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