

**State of New Mexico**  
*Office of the Governor*

**Susana Martinez**  
*Governor*

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**GOVERNOR SUSANA MARTINEZ RESCINDS NEW MEXICO  
SANCTUARY STATUS**

**SANTA FE** – Governor Susana Martinez announced today that she has signed an executive order rescinding sanctuary status for illegal immigrants who commit crimes in New Mexico while protecting victims and witnesses of criminal acts. The order signed by Governor Martinez directs law enforcement officers to inquire about the immigration status of those who are arrested for committing crimes.

“This order takes the handcuffs off of New Mexico’s law enforcement officers in their mission to keep our communities safe,” said Governor Martinez. “The criminal justice system should have the authority to determine the immigration status of all criminals, regardless of race or ethnicity, and report illegal immigrants who commit crimes to federal authorities. Meanwhile, it is important that we safeguard the ability of victims and witnesses to report crimes to law enforcement officers without fear of repercussion.”

Full text of the executive order is below:

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 2011-009**

**RESCINDING AND SUPERSEDING PRIOR EXECUTIVE ORDER PROVIDING  
SANCTUARY FOR INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED FOR CRIMES OTHER THAN  
VIOLATION OF IMMIGRATION LAWS**

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Mexico has a diverse population, including legal immigrants from many countries, whose contributions to the community are vital and from which the State of New Mexico greatly benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, it is essential that victims of, and witnesses to, crime are able to report those crimes and that they be assured access to our criminal justice system without fear of deportation or other immigration consequences; and

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order 2005-019 established a “sanctuary” policy that prohibited state law enforcement officers from inquiring about a criminal suspect’s immigration status; and

**WHEREAS**, this policy offers a shield to those who are arrested for committing crimes and are in this country illegally; and

**WHEREAS**, it is not the responsibility of state law enforcement officers to enforce federal immigration laws; however, in compliance with their sworn duties to uphold all laws, state law enforcement officers shall cooperate and communicate with federal authorities; and

**WHEREAS**, when a person, regardless of race, is arrested for a crime, state law enforcement officers shall inquire into the criminal suspect’s immigration status, and report relevant information to federal immigration enforcement authorities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Susana Martinez, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of New Mexico, do hereby **ORDER** and **DIRECT**:

1. Executive Order 2005-019 is rescinded and this Executive Order shall supersede it;
2. State law enforcement officers shall not inquire about the immigration status of crime victims, witnesses, or others who call or approach law enforcement seeking assistance or reporting a crime; and
3. State law enforcement officers shall inquire into the criminal suspect’s immigration status, and report relevant information to federal immigration enforcement authorities.

**THIS ORDER** supersedes any other previous orders, proclamations, or directives to the extent they are in conflict. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

ATTEST

DIANNA J. DURAN  
SECRETARY OF STATE

SIGNED AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE THIS 31<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2011.

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.

SUSANA MARTINEZ  
GOVERNOR

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