

MEDIA ADVISORY
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Southern Missouri Immigration Alliance
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DONNA HUGHES BROWN RELEASED FROM KENTUCKY ICE DETENTION

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI, December 18, 2025 – After 142 days, Donna Hughes Brown has been released from ICE custody and reunited with her family. With first hand experience, Donna and her husband, Jim, have vowed to continue fighting for justice for those impacted by ICE, especially those most impacted by the racist policies and procedures of the Department of Homeland Security.

Donna was detained months ago at Chicago O'Hare Airport after returning from a funeral in Ireland--all for writing two bad checks totaling under \$80 for groceries over a decade ago. She paid the money back, yet was still targeted and detained by the Department of Homeland Security's bounty hunters.

Since Donna's detainment in Kentucky, her husband, Jim, has been in collaboration with advocacy teams in Missouri, Ohio, and Kentucky and international media outlets to amplify Donna's story and the harm inflicted on the most vulnerable to these policies. Jim Brown has appeared at House Homeland Security Meetings in Washington, DC. At the most recent hearing, Kristi Noem thanked Jim for his service in the Navy and agreed to examine Donna's case.

"What she has been through is terrible and we are dedicated to work towards immigration reform," Jim Brown said.

In an interview with Keith Duggan with The Irish Times, Mr Brown described the food and living conditions at the detention centre as "appalling" but said his wife had remained resilient throughout the ordeal, passing time by teaching English to undocumented inmates.

Donna Hughes-Brown is just one of many unjustly held in ICE detention and subjected to cruel treatment. According to Jim, they are advocates for life.

Take action. Get organized and informed. Raise awareness in your community. Support your neighbors: **REPORT ICE SIGHTINGS AT (417)-MELT-ICE.**

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