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- 1. Right to Remain Silent:** You are not required to discuss your immigration or citizenship status with law enforcement or immigration officials. Anything you say can be used against you in immigration proceedings.
- 2. Right to Refuse Searches:** You have the right to refuse a search if an immigration agent requests one. They need probable cause or your consent to conduct a search.
- 3. Right to Not be Arrested or Detained For No Reason**

Knowing these rights is essential in safeguarding yourself during interactions with law enforcement and immigration officials.

Requirements

Requirement to Show Papers: If you are not a U.S. citizen and an immigration officer asks for your immigration papers, you must show them if you have them on you.

Carrying Identification: If you are over 18, you must carry your immigration documentation (e.g., green card, visa) at all times. If you don't have it with you, you may state your intention to remain silent or request legal counsel before answering questions.

What To Do If You Are Stopped By An Immigration Official

Maintaining your safety and security during a stop is of the utmost importance. There are steps you can take to protect yourself.

Stay Calm and Polite: Avoid any actions or language that could be perceived as hostile or threatening. Speaking in a calm, respectful tone can help prevent misunderstandings or escalation.

Do Not Resist: Even if you feel the officers are acting unjustly, resisting physically or verbally can worsen the situation. Instead, calmly state your rights if necessary, but comply with basic commands.

Avoid Sudden Movements: Keep your hands visible and avoid sudden movements, which could be misinterpreted.

Record the Interaction if Possible: If it's allowed in your area, recording the interaction on your phone can be useful as a record, as long as it's done in a way that doesn't interfere with the officers' actions.

Take Note of Officer Details: If possible, remember or write down badge numbers, patrol car numbers, and other identifying information in case you need to refer to the incident later.

Before Signing Anything, Speak With a Lawyer: An immigration official may try to get you to sign away your legal rights. Request to speak with a lawyer or a judge before signing anything.

What To Do If An Immigration Official Is At Your Door

You do not have to immediately answer the door: From behind the door, you can ask to see their badge and also ask if they have a judicial warrant. If they say no, you can tell them that you do not wish to speak to them. If they say yes, you can ask them to slide it under the door. A judicial warrant must be signed by a judge. If the warrant is provided, you must let the official in, but you do not have to say anything and you can ask to speak with a lawyer.

What To Do If An Immigration Official Is At Your Place Of Work

Immigration officials are permitted to enter the public areas of a workplace, but may not enter the private areas unless they have the permission of your employer or a judicial warrant. If the official tries to search your pocket or belongings, you may say that you do not consent to a search.

What To Do If You Are Being Detained By An Immigration Official

- Tell the immigration official if you have any medical issues or need to secure child care
- You do not need to speak or sign any documents without consulting with an attorney
- You do not need to tell the official where you were born, how you entered the U.S. or how long you have been here.
- Do not lie.
- Once detained, you will have the right to make phone calls to your family, friends, community leaders/your country's consulate, or an attorney. There may be limitations on frequency and duration of the calls.
- If you are the primary caregiver for a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident under the age of 18, inform the immigration official.
- If safe, take photos or videos of the raid/arrest, but do not interfere with the immigration officials.
- Record details such as the time, location, and actions of the officers to assist legal advocates and rights organizations.

Be Prepared

- Identify your emergency contact/s and memorize their phone number. Make sure your children memorize their number as well.
- If you care for children or dependents, make a plan for their care if you are detained.

- Memorize your A Number (Number given by Immigration). **To find a person currently held by ICE, go to locator.ice.gov and enter the person's:**
 - Name, country of birth, and birth date, or
 - 9-digit A-number
- Keep some cash available for emergencies.
- Provide your child's school or day care with the emergency contact to pick up your child.
- Provide authorization for your emergency contact to make medical and legal decisions for your child.
- Keep your passport, identity information, and if applicable, proof of two years of physical presence in the U.S. and financial information in a safe location. Make sure your emergency contact can access these documents.
- Carry a Know Your Rights Card

Note: Be Aware of Immigration Fraud

- Ask your lawyer for proof of license or accreditation. **To check if someone is a legitimate attorney in New York, go to nycourts.gov/attorneys and use the "Attorney Search" tool.**
- Do not use a "notario". In the U.S., a "notario" is not a lawyer.
- Ask for a written receipt of services to be provided.
- Get a second opinion from another lawyer.
- Keep copies of everything submitted to the government.

Resources for Immigrants

- **Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs Legal Support Hotline,** 800-354-0365, or call 311 and say, "*Immigration Legal*," between 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday to Friday, to get:
 - Answers to immigration policy questions
 - Information on how and where to find City-funded, free, and safe immigration legal help
- **Legal Aid Society,** www.legalaidnyc.org, **212-577-3300**
- **Legal Services NYC,** www.legalservicesnyc.org, **917-661-4500**

- **Catholic Charities**, <https://catholiccharitiesny.org/> 888-744-7900
- **New York State Office for New Americans**, <https://dos.ny.gov/office-new-americans>, **888-566-7636**
- **Immigrant Defense Project**, **212-725-6422**

Note: This is not a live helpline. Leave a message and they will contact you back regarding criminal legal immigration advice.

[A list of more organizations which serve communities in New York can be found here.](#)