



Know Your Rights!

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Sources: Immigrant Legal Resource Center, National Immigration Law Center

No matter who is president, everyone living in the United States has basic rights under the US Constitution. Undocumented immigrants have these rights, too. It is important to know your rights so you know when and how to assert them. Even though you have these rights, it is possible that law enforcement and other government entities will violate them.

If you encounter Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or other law enforcement officers at home, on the street, or anywhere else, remember that you have rights, and you can defend them as described in this factsheet.

You have the right to remain silent.

- You may refuse to speak to immigration officers.
- Do not answer any questions. You may also say that you want to remain silent.
- Do not say anything about where you were born or how you entered the U.S.

Carry a know-your-rights card and show it if an immigration officer stops you.

- The card explains that you will remain silent and that you wish to speak with an attorney.
- You can request a free know-your-rights card from ILCM.

Do not open your door.

- To be allowed to enter your home, ICE must have a warrant signed by a judge with your correct name and address on it.
- Do not open your door unless an ICE agent shows you a valid warrant.
- If an ICE agent wants to show you a warrant, they can hold it against a window or slide it under the door.

You have the right to speak to a lawyer.

- You can simply say, "I need to speak to my attorney."
- You may have your lawyer with you if ICE or other law enforcement questions you.

Do not sign anything until you talk to a lawyer.

- ICE may try to get you to sign away your right to see a lawyer or a judge.
- Be sure you understand what a document actually says before signing it.

Always carry with you any valid immigration documents you have.

- For U.S. citizens, carry a copy of their US passport/passport card/naturalization certificate/US birth certificate.
- For LPRs, carry physical green card (it is a crime not to do so). If they don't have it, carry a copy of it and advise to work on I-90 if appropriate.
- For nonimmigrants working lawfully or lawful status, carry copy of I-94 record and EAD.
- For undocumented individuals with at least two years in the U.S., carry proof of living in the U.S. for at least two years to assert right to hearing before an immigration judge.
- For undocumented individuals in U.S. less than two years, advise to assert fear of return to ICE if they have it to be interviewed by an asylum officer to see if they can have a hearing in immigration court for consideration for asylum/withholding of removal/Convention Against Torture protection (Form I-589).
- Do not carry papers from another country with you, such as a foreign passport. Such papers could be used against you in the deportation process.
- Do not carry any false documents.
- You do not need to show documents before speaking with a lawyer.
- Always carry a know-your-rights card to help you exercise your rights if you are stopped by ICE or the police.

Remain as calm as possible and do not run away.

If you do, ICE or the police may unfairly use this against you in court.

If you witness ICE activity such as a raid or arrest:

You have the right to take videos, photos, and written documentation.

The Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM) provides free immigration legal services to low-income immigrants in a variety of immigration matters. For more information about how we can assist you, please visit our website at www.ilcm.org or call us at 1-800-223-1368.