Know Your Rights

What to Do If Immigration (ICE) Stops You on the Street or in a Public Place

Do not speak to ICE. Say, “I am exercising my right to remain silent.” Do not answer questions or provide any information about your immigration status or national origin. ICE can use anything you say against you.

Stay calm. Do not run! ICE will use that as a reason to arrest you. If possible and safe to do so, take photos, video, and/or notes of the encounter.

Ask if you are being arrested or detained. If ICE agents stop you on the street and do not have a warrant, they cannot arrest you unless they have evidence that you are a non-citizen.

If they say you are not being arrested, ask if you are free to leave. When they say you may leave, walk away calmly.

If asked, provide your driver’s license, car registration, and proof of insurance.

Do not answer questions about anything else, including immigration status or national origin. Only state that you are exercising your right to remain silent.

Refuse consent to a search of yourself or your car.

If ICE stops you while you are driving:

If ICE arrests or detains you:

Do not speak to ICE. Exercise your right to remain silent.

State that you want to speak to your attorney. DO NOT ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS OR SIGN ANYTHING WITHOUT YOUR ATTORNEY!

Contact your attorney or family member immediately. You have the right to make a telephone call after you are arrested.

Ask for bond and a hearing before a judge even if ICE says you are not eligible.

Ask for copies of all your immigration documents.
**BE PREPARED! CREATE A SAFETY PLAN IN CASE OF ARREST.**

- Carry a Know-Your-Rights card to show to ICE if they stop you. The card should, at the very least, state that you will remain silent and wish to speak with an attorney.

- Do not carry any documents from your country of origin or any false documents.

- Memorize the phone number of a friend, family member, or attorney to call if you are arrested.

- Make arrangements for the care of your children or other loved ones.

- Designate trusted friends or family members to make decisions.

- Keep copies of immigration documents, criminal records, and other important documents in a safe place where a trusted friend or family member can access them if necessary.

- Make sure your loved ones know your immigration number (A number) and how to find you if you are detained by Immigration. Contact your local ICE office or search the online detainee locator: https://locator.ice.gov/odls/homePage.do.

**Note:** The content of this handout does not constitute legal advice. Please consult an immigration attorney for legal advice.