



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS:

Encounters With ICE

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ADC
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Introduction

Interacting with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) can be stressful. Knowing your rights is crucial to protect yourself. This guide explains your basic rights if you are approached by ICE agents in public or at home. Remember to stay calm and informed.

Your Rights

1. Your General Rights (Apply Everywhere)

- **Right to Remain Silent:** You have the constitutional right to remain silent. You do not have to answer questions about where you were born, your immigration status, or how you entered the U.S.. You can state clearly, "I wish to remain silent". Remaining silent cannot be used against you.
- **Right to Speak to a Lawyer:** You have the right to speak to a lawyer before answering any questions or signing any documents. Ask to call your lawyer. In immigration proceedings, the government usually does not provide a lawyer free of charge, but you have the right to hire one.
- **Do Not Lie or Provide False Documents:** Never lie to an immigration agent or provide false documents. This can lead to serious consequences.

2. If ICE Approaches You in Public (Work, School, Street)

- **Stay Calm:** Do not run. Keep your hands where agents can see them. Do not resist physically.
- **Ask:** "Am I free to leave?" If the agent says yes, calmly walk away. If they say no, you are being detained and do not have to answer questions.
- **State Your Silence:** You can say, "I wish to remain silent and would like to speak with my attorney". You do not have to answer questions about your immigration status or where you were born.
- **Do Not Sign Anything:** Do not sign any forms or documents without speaking to a lawyer first.

3. If ICE Comes to Your Home

- **Do NOT Open the Door:** ICE agents need a special type of warrant signed by a judge to enter your home without your permission. An administrative warrant for deportation (like Form I-200 or I-205, often signed by an ICE official) is NOT enough to force entry.
- **Ask to See the Warrant:** Do not open the door. Ask the agent to show you the warrant by holding it up to a window or sliding it under the door.
- **Check the Warrant Carefully – A valid *judicial* warrant must:**
 - Be signed by a judge (not an ICE official).
 - Have your correct name and address on it.
 - Specify which parts of your home they can search and what they are looking for.
- **If They Do NOT Have a Valid Judicial Warrant:** You can say through the closed door, "I do not consent to your entry or search." Do not open the door or let them in.
- **If They DO Have a Valid Judicial Warrant:** You must allow them to enter if they show you a valid warrant signed by a judge. Stay calm. Clearly state, "I wish to remain silent and I want to contact my lawyer". Do not interfere with the search, but observe and mentally note (or write down later, if safe) agents' names, badge numbers, and what they do.
- **Do Not Sign Anything:** Do not sign any documents without speaking to a lawyer first.

4. Important Reminders

- Never lie or give false documents to ICE agents.
- Never sign anything you don't understand or before talking to a lawyer.

- Clearly state if you are exercising your right to remain silent.

5. Preparing in Advance (Safety Plan)

- **Memorize Key Phone Numbers:** Know the phone number of a trusted family member or friend, and an immigration lawyer, by heart.
- **Keep Documents Safe:** Keep copies of important immigration documents (like your passport, visa, I-94, Green Card, EAD) in a safe place. Consider keeping copies with a trusted person. You can carry copies or originals of valid immigration documents on you.
- **Emergency Contact:** Designate a trusted person who can be contacted in an emergency.
- **Know Your Resources:** Keep the contact information for ADC and other trusted community organizations handy.
- **Talk to Your Family:** Discuss this information and your safety plan with your family members (age-appropriately).

Protect yourself, your family, and your community. Share this to spread awareness!

Contact us at our 27/7 hotline at 844.ADC.9955. (844.232.9955).



Disclaimer: *This information is for educational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Immigration laws and policies can change. For advice on your specific situation, please consult with an immigration attorney.*