Know Your Rights!

How can you prepare yourself in case of an encounter with immigration (“ICE”) agents?

This document is designed to provide practical and useful information, but it is not legal advice. If you need legal advice or other expert assistance, seek the services of a competent professional.

1. Memorize the phone numbers of two adults you trust who can easily answer the telephone and help you.

2. All minors should have a plan for substitute caregiving in case a current caretaker becomes unavailable. Plans should include school pick-up and drop-off.

3. If you see immigration agents (“ICE” agents) or if they approach you, do not run away, do not give false names or false identities, or resist arrest. This may give immigration a reason to question you. Just stay silent or say only, “I want to talk to my lawyer.”

4. You do not have to open your door or let immigration agents enter your home. If immigration comes to your door, stay silent and tell those with you to stay silent; you do not have to open the door. Immigration cannot enter your home without an order (search warrant) signed by a judge.

5. Remain silent, do not lie, and do not say anything without your attorney present. You do not have to give immigration your name, birthplace, legal status, or date of birth. Do not lie. If you need to say something, say only, “I want to talk to my lawyer.”

6. If you are arrested by immigration, ask to speak to your attorney. You should always carry your attorney’s name and phone number.

7. Do not sign any documents without consulting your immigration attorney.

8. Always carry your attorney’s business card, copies of immigration approval documents (including green card or work permit if you have them), and a “My Rights Card” to remind you of your rights.

9. If you have a court hearing, it is important to attend the hearing. If you do not attend an immigration court hearing, the immigration judge can enter a deportation order without you there, which could make you a target for ICE.

10. If you ever miss a court hearing or if you receive a deportation order, call your immigration attorney immediately. To check court information, you can call 1-800-898-7180, press “2” for Spanish instructions, and type in your nine-digit “A number.”

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Images from “Know Your Rights! Learn How to Protect You and Your Family During Immigration Raids” courtesy of Casa de Maryland