



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Information for Organizations & Businesses on Interacting with Immigration Authorities or Law Enforcement

This information provides general guidance on rights and responsibilities when immigration enforcement officers visit your organization or business. It does **not** provide legal advice. Consult a licensed attorney or accredited representative for legal questions about your specific situation.

Understanding Interactions with Immigration Enforcement Agents

Federal immigration enforcement officers (such as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)) may visit businesses or organizations for various reasons. Knowing your rights can help protect your organization, employees, clients, and visitors.

Public Areas of Your Business or Organization

- Federal immigration agents can be present in public areas where the general public is allowed (for example, lobbies, waiting rooms, retail floors, dining areas, or parking lots).
- Their presence in these spaces alone does not give them authority to stop, question, detain, or arrest a specific person without consent, probable cause, or legal authority like a warrant.
- You may set policies for access to public areas or designate areas as private to clarify expectations during such visits.

Private Areas of Your Business or Organization

- Areas intended for employees, residents, students, patients, or others not generally open to the public are considered private.
- Immigration agents generally need a valid warrant signed by a judge to enter private areas without permission.
- If agents claim to have a warrant, you may ask to see a copy and verify that it is judicial warrant (signed by a judge) rather than an administrative document.
- Administrative warrants (issued by agencies rather than courts) do not authorize entry into private areas without consent.

Interacting with Immigration Agents:

When immigration enforcement agents come to your business or organization:

- Ask the agents why they are there and what authority they are using.
- Ask to see their badge or official identification to confirm their agency.
- If an agent requests to search your premises, you have the right to **refuse consent** unless they have a valid warrant, probable cause, or exigent circumstances.
- If a search proceeds without proper authority, **do not physically resist**. Instead, state clearly: “I do not consent to this search. I wish to remain silent. I wish to speak with an attorney.”

Additional Resources

If you believe your rights are being violated, contact a lawyer or your local law enforcement agency. You can find legal aid providers and other critical resources at [PA Navigate](http://www.panavigate.org) (www.panavigate.org). Just enter your zip code and click the Advocacy and Legal Aid category.

