



# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

## Information for Individuals on Interacting with Immigration Authorities or Law Enforcement

This document provides general information about your rights in the United States. It does **not** provide legal advice. Laws and procedure may change. Consult a licensed attorney for advice about your specific situation.

### If You are Stopped in a Public Place, You Have the Right to:

- **Ask for identification.** You may ask the agent for their name, badge, and agency.
- **Remain silent.** You do not have to answer questions about your immigration status or birthplace. You may say, "I choose to remain silent."
- **Ask if you are free to leave.** If the agent says yes, you may calmly walk away.
- **Say, "I do not consent to a search."** Do not physically resist.
- Request an interpreter if you do not understand English.
- **Ask to contact or notify your embassy or consulate.**

**Important:** If you are not a U.S. citizen, are over the age of 18, and have valid immigration documents, federal law requires you to carry them (for example, a green card or I-94). If asked, you may be required to show them. U.S. citizens are not required to carry documents demonstrating their citizenship.

### If Agents Come to Your Home:

- You do **not** have to open the door.
- You may ask the law enforcement agents to identify themselves and state their agency.
- You may ask them to slide any warrant under the door or show it through a window.
- Agents need a **warrant signed by a judge** to enter your home without your permission.
- If the warrant is not signed by a judge or does not list your correct name and address, you may refuse entry.

## **If Agents Enter Your Home:**

- Do not physically resist.
- Clearly state, “I do not consent to this entry.”
- Ask to speak with a lawyer.
- Do not sign any documents without first speaking to an attorney.

## **If You Are Detained:**

- You have the right to remain silent.
- You have the right to request an attorney or call your family. You have the right to be visited by an attorney in detention.
- You do not have to answer questions without a lawyer present.
- You have the right to request an interpreter.
- Do not sign documents you do not understand.
- Inform agents if you are the primary caregiver for a child.
- Inform agents if you have any medical conditions.

## **Protect Yourself from Immigration Scams**

- Only take advice from licensed attorneys or accredited immigration representatives who represent you. You can search attorneys licensed in Pennsylvania here: <https://www.padisciplinaryboard.org/for-the-public/find-attorney>.
- Be cautious of “notarios” or “immigration consultants” who are not authorized to practice law.
- Always request a written agreement that explains services and fees.
- Do not give original documents to someone unless necessary and always keep copies.

## **Important Reminder**

- This information applies to individuals in the United States regardless of immigration status.
- Laws and enforcement practices can change.
- For legal advice, contact a licensed immigration attorney or accredited representative.

## **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 \(www.panavigate.org\)](http://www.panavigate.org). Just enter your zip code and click the Advocacy and Legal Aid category.

