



# Know Your Rights: If ICE Stops You in Public

All people living in the United States, including undocumented immigrants, have certain U.S. constitutional rights. If you are undocumented and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers stop you on the street or in a public place, remember your options and rights:

## 1. You Have the Right to Ask if You are Under Arrest or Free to Leave

- Do not panic or run away.
- Ask if you are being arrested or detained. If the ICE officer says no, you can ask if you are free to leave.
  - If they say yes, walk away calmly.
  - If they say no, stay where you are and do not attempt to leave.

## 2. You Have the Right to Remain Silent

- You do not have to speak to the immigration officer, answer any questions, or show any documents.
- If you are asked where you were born or how you entered the United States, you may refuse to answer or remain silent.
- If you choose to remain silent, say “I choose to remain silent.”
- You may show a **know-your-rights card** ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#)) to the officer that explains that you will remain silent and wish to speak to a lawyer.
- If you do not understand English, state the language you speak.

## 3. You are Not Required to Show Immigration Documents

- You may refuse to show identity documents that reveal your country of nationality or citizenship.
- Never show false documents or provide false information.
- Do not say you were born in the United States if you were not, and do not claim to be a U.S. citizen if you are not one.

## 4. You May Refuse a Search

- You have the right to refuse a search of yourself or your personal belongings unless officers have probable cause or a warrant.
- ICE officers cannot search you without your consent unless they have probable cause. However, they can pat down the outside of your clothing if they suspect you have a weapon.

- If ICE officers try to search you, you can say, “I do not consent to a search.”
  - If they search you anyway, do not resist physically.
  - Document what happened – this may help in a future legal case.

## 5. You Have the Right to Speak to a Lawyer

- If you are detained or taken into custody, you have the right to contact an attorney.
- Even if you do not have a lawyer, you may tell the officers that you want to speak to one by saying, “I want to speak to a lawyer.”
- If you have a lawyer, you have the right to talk to that lawyer. If you have proof of that relationship (such as a signed **Form G-28**), give it to an officer.
- If you do not have a lawyer, ask for a list of pro bono (free) or low bono (low cost) lawyers.
- If detained by ICE, you have the right to contact your country’s consulate or have an officer inform the consulate of your detention. Your consulate may be able to assist you in connecting with a lawyer.

## 6. You Do Not Have to Sign Anything

- Do not sign any paperwork without speaking with a lawyer first.
- If you choose to sign something, make sure you fully understand what it means. Signing documents may waive your rights or lead to deportation.

## 7. If you Believe Your Rights Have Been Violated

- Write down what happened or ask a witness to do so.
- Include specific details like names, badge numbers, and exactly what was said and done.
- Report the violation to a lawyer or an immigrant rights organization.

For more information about your rights or to see if you qualify for immigration relief, consult an immigration lawyer. Visit [www.ailalawyer.org](http://www.ailalawyer.org) to find legal help.



# Know Your Rights: If ICE Comes to Your Workplace (For Employees)

All people living in the United States, including undocumented immigrants, have certain U.S. constitutional rights. If Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers come to your workplace, they must have either (1) a valid search warrant, or (2) consent from your employer to enter non-public areas. However, ICE can enter public areas of your workplace (such as the lobby or reception area) without a warrant or consent from your employer.

If you are undocumented and ICE officers arrive at your workplace, remember your options and rights:

## 1. Stay Calm

- Do not panic or run away.
- If an officer stops you, you may ask if you are free to leave.
  - If they say yes, walk away calmly.
  - If they say no, stay where you are and do not attempt to leave.

## 2. You Have the Right to Remain Silent

- You do not have to speak to ICE, answer any questions, or show any documents.
- If you are asked where you were born, how you entered the United States, or your immigration status, you may refuse to answer or remain silent.
- If you choose to remain silent, say it out loud, “I choose to remain silent.”
- If officers ask you to stand in a group based on your immigration status, you do not have to move. You can also move to an area not designated for a particular group.
- Be prepared to assert your rights by downloading, printing and carrying this card which you can show to the immigration officers: <https://www.ilrc.org/red-cards-tarjetas-rojas>. This card states that you do not wish to speak, answer any questions, or sign any documents.
- If you do not understand English, state the language you speak.

## 3. You are Not Required to Show Immigration Documents

- You may refuse to show identity documents that reveal your country of nationality or citizenship.

- Never show false documents or provide false information.
- Do not say you were born in the United States if you were not, and do not claim to be a U.S. citizen if you are not one.

## 4. You Have the Right to Contact a Lawyer

- If you are detained or taken into custody, you have the right to contact a lawyer immediately.
- Even if you do not have a lawyer, you may tell the immigration officers that you want to speak to one by saying, “I want to speak to a lawyer.”
- If you have a lawyer, you have the right to speak to that lawyer. If you have proof of that relationship (such as a signed **Form G-28**) give it to an officer.
- If you do not have a lawyer, ask for a list of pro bono (free) or low bono (low cost) lawyers.

## 5. You Do Not Have to Sign Anything

- Do not sign any paperwork until you speak with a lawyer.
- If you choose to sign something, make sure you fully understand what it means. Signing documents may waive your rights or lead to deportation.

## 6. If You Believe Your Rights Have Been Violated

- Write down what happened or ask a witness to do so.
- Include specific details like names, badge numbers, and exactly what was said and done.
- Report the violation to a lawyer or an immigrant rights organization.

For more information about your rights or to see if you qualify for immigration relief, consult an immigration lawyer. Visit [www.ailalawyer.org](http://www.ailalawyer.org) to find legal help.



# Know Your Rights: If ICE Visits Your Home

All people living in the United States, including undocumented immigrants, have certain U.S. Constitutional rights. If you are undocumented and immigration (ICE) agents knock on your door, know that you have the following rights:

- ✓ **You do not have to open the door.** You do not have to open the door or let the officers into your home unless they have a valid search warrant signed by a judge.
  - An ICE deportation warrant is not the same as a search warrant. If this is the only document they have, they cannot legally come inside unless you verbally agree to let them in.
  - If the officers say they have a search warrant signed by a judge, ask them to slide it under the door or hold it up to a window so you can see it.
  - If the warrant does not have your correct name and address on it **and** is not signed by a judge you do not have to open the door or let them inside.
  - If at any point you decide to speak with the officers, you do not need to open the door to do so. You can speak to them through the door or step outside and close the door.
- ✓ **You have the right to remain silent.** You do not need to speak to the immigration officers or answer any questions.
  - If you are asked where you were born or how you entered the United States, you may refuse to answer or remain silent.
  - If you choose to remain silent, say “I choose to remain silent.”
  - You may show a **know-your-rights card** ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#)) to the officer that explains that you will remain silent and wish to speak to a lawyer.
- You may refuse to show identity documents that say what country you are from.
- Do not show any false documents and do not lie.
- ✓ **You have the right to speak to a lawyer.** If you are detained or taken into custody, you have the right to seek an attorney and to receive a phone call from your attorney. Ask for a copy of the [Detainee Handbook](#) to understand the Detention Center’s rules.
  - Even if you do not have a lawyer, you may tell the immigration officers that you want to speak to one.
  - If you have a lawyer, you have the right to talk to them. If you have a signed [Form G-28](#), which shows you have a lawyer, give it to an officer.
  - If you do not have a lawyer, ask an immigration officer for a list of pro bono lawyers.
  - You also have the right to contact your consulate. The consulate may be able to assist you in locating a lawyer.
  - You can refuse to sign any/all paperwork until you have had the opportunity to speak to a lawyer.
  - If you choose to sign something without speaking to a lawyer, be sure you understand exactly what the document says and means before you sign it.
  - You have the right to speak to request to make a phone call to family members or friends for free if you do not have enough money in your account after 10 days.

*This flyer is intended for general information purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. You should not act or rely on any information in this flyer without seeking the advice of a competent, licensed immigration attorney. For more information on how this might apply to your case, please contact your immigration attorney or find an immigration attorney at <https://www.ailalawyer.org/>.*

