

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

You do have rights! REMAIN SILENT!

If the Immigration Service arrests you and you are undocumented:

- Do **not** answer any questions.
- Do **not** say anything about where you were born or how you entered the United States.
- Do **not** show any documents, except a letter from a lawyer. Above all, do not lie or show any false documents!
- Do **not** sign anything, especially an Order of Voluntary Departure, without first talking to a lawyer.
- **Tell** the Immigration Service official that you want to see an immigration judge in the city closest to where you live where there is an immigration court (so that they don't transfer your case) & you want to talk to a lawyer.



If the Immigration Service arrives at your house and knocks on your door, you don't have to open the door. Usually, they need a search warrant or arrest warrant with your name and address in order to enter your house. If they don't have a warrant, you do not have to let them enter. Even if they have a warrant and enter your home, you have the right to remain silent. So, the Immigration Service can enter your home only if they have a warrant, or you give them permission, or they think there is presently a crime being committed in your home.

The Immigration Service can enter areas open to the public at workplaces, such as the reception area of a business. In order to enter places that are not open to the public, they need a warrant or permission from the boss or owner. If the Immigration Service enters your workplace with or without a warrant, you always have the right to remain silent. Stay calm. Don't run. This may be viewed as an admission that you have something to hide.



The Immigration Service must have a good reason to stop you and search your car. If they do (for example, they see drugs in your car), they can search your car without a search warrant. Usually it's very important not to give them permission to search your car. If the police stop you, you don't have to show them any papers apart from your driver's license and car registration if you have this. The police shouldn't ask you any questions about your legal status in this country. If an Immigration official begins to ask you questions while you are walking down the street or in another public place such as a park, you can continue walking. The Immigration Service should let you keep walking if they don't have a good reason to continue asking you questions. An example of a good reason is if you are leaving a place where they have previously found many undocumented workers. They cannot stop you just because you are Latino or because you have an accent. These are not good reasons. Remember that you have the right to remain silent. Don't run! If you run, you are giving them a good reason to arrest you.

What Happens if the Immigration Service Arrests You?

In any of the situations above, it is possible that the Immigration Service will arrest you. If this happens, you must not forget that you have rights that protect you because the Immigration Service may not tell you about those rights. The Immigration Service will ask you questions about your legal status in this country. If the Immigration Service gets this information legally, they can use this information against you, and even use it to deport you. It's especially important not to sign an "Order of Voluntary Departure" or an admission that you were using fake documents. If you do, you may lose the possibility of remaining in the U.S. It's very important to remain silent until you've spoken with a lawyer, because there may be some way for you to remain in the U.S. or some rights that you do not know about.

Develop a Safety Plan:

- Know what documents to carry with you, i.e. a letter/card with contact information from your immigration attorney and indicating that you wish to remain silent
- Make a plan to care for your family, including designating relatives/friends to care for any elderly family members or children, and discuss who will help make decisions if you are detained, and where they can find information
- Find an immigration attorney you trust, and keep their information accessible for your family/friends to help communicate with an attorney if you are detained
- Keep a copy of all immigration documents in a safe place where your family/friend can find them

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