(i) KNOW YOUR RIGHTS:



If you're asked about your immigration status:

- You have the **right to remain silent**. You do not have to answer questions about where you were born, whether you're a U.S. citizen, or how you entered the country. (Separate rules apply at international borders and airports, and for individuals on certain non-immigrant visas, including tourists and business travelers.)
- If you are not a U.S. citizen and have valid immigration papers, you should show them to an immigration agent if they request them.
- Do not lie about your citizenship status or provide false documentation.

If ICE comes to your home:

- Do NOT open the door. You have the right to refuse a search of your house. Instead, ask ICE agents to show you proof of a judicial warrant signed by a judge. Ask them to slide it through your door or show it through the window. ICE warrants don't give officers authority to go into your home (ICE warrants are different from judicial warrants!).
- Take a picture of the warrant and send it to your lawyer. A valid judicial warrant must have the word "court" in the title, your correct full name and address, the signature of a judge, and the correct date. If any of these elements is missing or incorrect, the warrant is not valid.
- If the judicial warrant is not valid or it is just an ICE warrant, you can ask the ICE agents to leave your property.

If you're stopped in your car:

- You are required to show your driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance.
- You have the right to refuse the search of your car. However, if the police see or believe your car contains evidence of a crime or has a valid judicial warrant, they can search it without your consent.
- Both drivers and passengers have the **right to remain silent**. If you're a passenger, you can also ask if you're free to leave. If yes, silently leave and do not run.

If police or other local or state agents arrest you:

- Remain calm and do not resist.
- If you are arrested, you must truthfully answer an officer's questions about your name, the address where you live and your birth date, if asked. You have the right to remain silent regarding all other questions, including about your immigration status.
- You have the **right to a lawyer**. If you can't afford one, the government must provide one.
- You have the right to make a local phone call. The police cannot listen if you call a lawyer.

If you're taken into ICE custody:

- You have the right to a lawyer, but the government will not provide one. If you don't have a lawyer, ask for a list of free or low-cost legal services.
- You have the right to speak to a lawyer before saying anything, signing anything, or making any decisions.
- You have the right to remain silent. Do not discuss your immigration status with anyone but your lawyer.
- You have the right to contact your consulate (they can also help you find a lawyer or speak to your family).
- Know your immigration number ("A" number) and give it to your family. It will help them locate you.

Remember: You have constitutional rights. Be prepared: Learn more at hopeborder.org

This content is intended to serve as general information; it is not legal advice nor intended as legal advice. Last Updated: January 31, 2025