

USCRI KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

A Guide for Immigrants



Regardless of immigration status, all individuals in the United States have guaranteed rights under the Constitution. The following guide is to inform non-U.S. citizens of their legal rights in various situations with law enforcement and immigration officers.

Some [state laws](#) may vary. Separate rules apply at [checkpoints](#) and when entering the United States at ports of entry, including at borders and airports.

This information is for educational purposes and should not be used as a substitute for legal assistance. If you or someone you know needs legal assistance, please contact an attorney.

IF YOU ARE DETAINED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OR IMMIGRATION OFFICERS

- Do not say anything to police or immigration officers. You have the right to remain silent at all times. Anything you say can be used against you in court.
- Say, "I want to speak to an attorney." At this point, the police or immigration officer must stop questioning you.
- If you are detained by the police, you have the right to a free attorney (public defender) in criminal proceedings.
- If you are detained by an immigration officer, you have the right to an attorney to assist with your immigration situation, but the government does not need to provide one—ask for one immediately.
- Ask for an interpreter if English is not the language you are most comfortable with.



- Do not sign anything without consulting an attorney first.
- If in ICE custody, contact your attorney or a family member immediately. You have the right to make a telephone call after you are arrested.
- Ask for bond and a hearing before a judge even if ICE says you are not eligible.
- Ask for copies of all your immigration documents.

