

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 A LAW ENFORCEMENT OR IMMIGRATION OFFICER COMES TO YOUR HOME



- If police or immigration officers come to your home, you do not have to open the door unless they present a search warrant signed by a judge.
- Do not open the door. Speak to them from the inside, through the closed door or through a window. Say, "You do not have my consent to enter."
- Ask the police or immigration officer to show you a badge or identification through the window or peephole.
- If the officers say they have a warrant, ask them to slide it under the door or pass it through the window.
- Make sure the correct address is on the warrant.
- Only state or federal judges can sign a search warrant. Immigration judges cannot.
- If you are unsure, ask the officer what kind of judge signed the warrant. Or ask for time to call an attorney.
- If the officers do not have a search warrant, you do not have to let them in. Say, "I do not consent to your entry." You can also refuse to talk to them.
- Do not confuse an arrest warrant for a search warrant.
- A search warrant allows law enforcement to go into your home and search it.
- An arrest warrant allows law enforcement to come to your home to arrest you. But it does not allow law enforcement to search your home.
- An order of removal or deportation (an immigration warrant) does not give an officer the right to enter your home.



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- If officers have a valid warrant and are searching your home:
 - If you live with other individuals who are not U.S. citizens, it is best to quickly exit the premises and close the door behind you. This may help protect other members of your household from being questioned or detained by ICE.
 - During the search, you have the right to remain silent. Say, "I do not want to answer your questions."
 - You have the right to have an attorney present, and the police are required to provide one if you are suspected of committing a crime. Say, "I want an attorney."
 - Do not obstruct officers or block them from entering places that are listed on the warrant.
 - Do not lie or produce any false documents.
 - Do not sign anything without speaking with an attorney first.
- If officers force their way in, do not resist. Say, "I do not consent to your entry or to your search of these premises. I am exercising my right to remain silent. I want to speak with an attorney."
- Remember the details of the encounter, and film it if you can.
- Ask for an interpreter if English is not the language you are most comfortable with.

