

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.

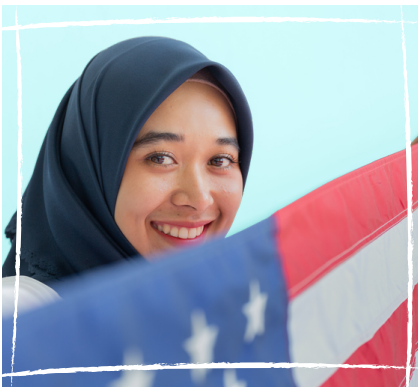
Some [state laws](#) may vary. Separate rules apply at [checkpoints](#) and when entering the United States at ports of entry, including at borders and airports.

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.

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?



- You have the right to not incriminate yourself. This means that you have the right to remain silent when questioned by law enforcement. You can say, "I do not want to answer your questions."
- You have the right to a fair and equal process. Ask for an interpreter if English is not the language you are most comfortable with.
 - You do not have to sign anything you do not understand.
- You have the right against illegal searches and seizures (arrests). You do not have to open the door for law enforcement to enter your home unless they have a judicial search warrant.
- If you are not under arrest, ask if you are being detained. If the answer is no, ask, "Am I free to leave?" If the answer is yes, calmly leave.
- If you are detained by immigration officers, you have the right to seek an attorney, but the government does not need to provide one—ask for one immediately.
- If you are detained by the police for a crime, you have the right to a free attorney (public defender) during questioning.
- You have the right to call the consulate of your home country. Immigration and the police must allow your consulate to visit or speak with you.
- You have the right to appeal a deportation order, criminal conviction, and denials of certain immigration applications (ex. denial of asylum).
- Police and immigration officers should never ask you for money.



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YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES



- Stay calm.
- Do not run away, argue, resist, or obstruct a police or immigration officer, even if you believe your rights are being violated.
- Do not say anything to police or immigration officers.
- Keep your hands where police or immigration officers can see them.
- Do not lie about your immigration status or give false documents.
- If you are over 18, consider carrying a copy of immigration status documentation with you.
 - Always keep a copy on your phone.
 - If the officer asks about your immigration status, you have the right to remain silent by saying, "I do not want to answer your questions. I want to speak to a lawyer."
- Memorize the phone number of a friend, family member, or attorney to call if you are arrested.
- Make plans for the care of your children or other loved ones if you are arrested.
- Prepare people in your care (ex. children and older parents) on what to do if you are detained.
- Designate a trusted person to make financial and childcare decisions if you are unable.
- Keep your immigration documents, criminal records, and other important documents in a safe place where a trusted person can access them.
- Make sure your loved ones know your immigration number (A number) and how to find you if you are detained by ICE.
- Remember the details of an encounter with law enforcement, and film it if you can.
- File a written complaint if you feel your rights have been violated.

