

Immigrant: Know your rights

Don't let Immigration in without your permission.

To enter a building, home or workplace, Immigration has to have permission from the employer or homeowner, or a warrant signed by a judge, saying specifically what part they want to search and the people they want to question. If you open the door for them and let them come in, you are giving them your permission. If they say they have a warrant from a judge, demand to see it.

Don't open the door to people you don't know.

A lot of times, Immigration agents don't wear uniforms, and they can be confused with salespeople or regular people. Remember that Immigration can't come in your house unless they have a warrant from the court... or if you let them in.

Don't tell anyone where you are from or whether you have papers. Demand to speak to an attorney.

Immigration can't try to deport you if they don't have the necessary information to prove that you don't have papers. If you tell them where you are from, how you came in, and that you don't have papers, that's all the information they need to detain you and deport you. Also, don't trust people you don't know well with this information: they may report you to Immigration.

It is very possible that even if you don't say a word, Immigration might arrest you or try to intimidate you. But if they don't have the necessary information against you, eventually they will have to let you go. Even though Immigration might strongly pressure you, try as much as possible not to give up. ***The only important information to give if you are detained is your real name, otherwise your loved ones or your attorney will have trouble locating you.***

If there is a raid, don't run! Remain calm.

If you run, Immigration has the necessary proof to stop you. You can leave the place walking at a normal pace, but don't run and try not to look nervous.

Don't sign anything until you talk to a lawyer.

If Immigration detains you, they will try to get you to sign your voluntary departure. But if you sign it, you could lose important rights. Demand the right to speak to a lawyer before signing any paper.

Don't show Immigration false documents.

It is very dangerous to use false documents. If Immigration catches you with false documents, they can give you a fine, deport you and prohibit you from ever getting legal residence in the United States.

If there is a raid and you have papers, exercise your right to remain silent.

If there is a raid and no one says anyone, Immigration cannot do its job. This is the best protection that we have as a community.

Prepare for a raid with a plan of action

Tell your friends, family members and co-workers what are their rights during a raid. Try to decide that if there is a raid, everyone, regardless of their immigration status, will refuse to talk to Immigration and will demand to speak to a lawyer.

***Note:** If the police stop you and ask for your name, give it to them. A recent decision of the Supreme Court generally requires that you give your name to the police if they ask you for it. This decision only applies to the police. You have the right to not say anything to immigration, although if they detain you, it is important that you give them your real name, so that your family or lawyer can find out where they are holding you.*

For more information: