

Note. Information listed below was used for making the pamphlets on undocumented people's rights when encountering police or ICE agents Pamphlets are translated but this document is only in English.

What You need to know when you encounter a police officer or an immigration agent

Your rights when you encounter a police or immigration officer

Sanctuary Cities:

In the state of California there are multiple sanctuary cities: Alameda County, *Berkley*, Contra Costa County, *Fremont*, CA, Los Angeles County, *Los Angeles*, Monterey County, Napa County, *Oakland*, Riverside County, Sacramento County, San Bernardino County, San Diego County, *San Francisco* County/City, San Mateo County, *Santa Ana*, Santa Clara County, Santa Cruz County, Sonoma County, *Watsonville*.

Although the name implies cities, counties are also considered sanctuary places. The purpose of sanctuary cities is to protect undocumented residents by implementing policies and practices that minimize local law enforcement cooperation with federal immigration authorities (Cite).

Limiting the relationship between law enforcement and federal immigration authorities helps protect residents from being reported as undocumented.

Tips to Protect Yourself:

1. Try to remain calm when interacting with the officer. Do not run or resist (even if you believe you did nothing wrong).
2. Be mindful of your body language.
3. Do not provide false documentation or lie.
4. You have the right to request to see the agent's identification.
5. You have the right to remain silent and the right not to answer any questions, especially if it is about your immigration status, birthplace or how you entered the United States. You may say "*I am exercising my right to remain silent.*"
6. Do not sign any papers or answer questions if you are arrested or taken into custody. You may ask for a lawyer by saying "*I wish to speak to a lawyer.*"
7. You may ask for an interpreter if you need one.

Stopped by a police officer or ICE:

- Try to remain calm when interacting with the officer. Do not run or resist (even if you believe you did nothing wrong)
- Be mindful of your body language and keep your hands where they can be seen.
- If a law enforcement officer stops you while driving or while walking, police officers are required to tell you the reason why you were stopped. If they do not give you any

information for stopping you, ask them for the reason. However, do not answer if a police officer asks you why you think they stopped you. In California, law enforcement is no longer required to ask if you know the reason for why they stopped you.

- You may need to show your license only when you are being legally detained, arrested, or when being pulled over and the police officer asks for your license.
 - Do not provide false documentation or lie.
- Ask the police officer “*Am I free to go?*” if they say you are not being detained nor being put under arrest. If you are unsure, ask the officer “*Am I being detained?*”. After the officer confirms you are free to go make sure to calmly leave. Do not try to run.
- You have the right to remain silent and the right not to answer any questions, especially if it is about your immigration status, place of birth, or how you entered the United States.
 - You may say “*I am exercising my right to remain silent.*”
- Police officers do not have the right to detain or arrest you for refusing to answer questions. Be aware that police officers may try to lie and intimidate you. If the questioning persists you may say “*I wish to speak to a lawyer.*”
- You have the right to refuse being searched whether that means yourself, your car, or belongings. In a calm tone you may tell the officer: “*I do not consent to a search.*” However, police officers may pat down your clothing if they suspect you’re carrying a weapon. Do not resist if this occurs or if an officer conducts a search against your will.
- Collect evidence: If you feel like your rights have been violated, film with your cell phone, remember the names and badge numbers of the police officers and try to document what happened to you during the interaction. However, if you’re recording make sure to not interfere with law enforcement activity - keep a safe distance. This information may be helpful if you end up in court. Interactions with ICE agents can be a bit more tricky so be sure to carefully assess the situation and determine whether recording will help or only escalate the situation.

Arrested or detained by Police or ICE:

- Ask for a lawyer if you are arrested by a police officer. If you’re arrested by ICE you may speak to an attorney but an attorney will not be provided.
- If you’re arrested by the police you have the right to a local phone call this includes calling a lawyer.
- You may make a phone call to family members or a lawyer if you’re detained by ICE.
- Do not sign any papers or answer any questions (remain silent) while you are arrested or taken into custody - say “*I wish to speak to a lawyer.*” This may be different if you’re given a citation or ticket by a police officer. Police officers may ask you to sign a citation or a ticket in order to let you leave the scene. Consider signing the ticket as this can reduce your chance of being taken to the police station. If you sign the ticket it only means you agree to show up for the court date.

- It may be possible that Immigration officers visit you while in jail. Avoid answering any questions without talking to your lawyer.
- If documents are provided to you, read them thoroughly and carefully. Ask for an interpreter if you do not understand what is being said.
- Do not provide any immigration documents or identification that states your place of birth.
- You may contact your consulate or ask an officer to notify your consulate about your detention if you have been detained by ICE.
- Know your immigration number (“A’ number) so you can share it with your family and they can locate you as well as the deportation officer assigned to your case.

Police or Ice are at my home:

- You do not need to open the door, unless they have a warrant signed by a judge. Therefore, it is advised that you keep the door closed and do not give them permission to come into your home.
- If the officer says they have a warrant, ask to see the warrant by telling them to slide it under the door or to hold it up on a window.
 - There are various type of warrants that have different rules:
 - removal/deportation warrant does not permit officers to come into your home without your permission
 - Arrest warrant allows officers to enter your home without your permission if they believe the person they are arresting is inside
 - Search warrant only allows officers to search the address listed and look for the items stated
- Ask to see their identification
- You have the right to an interpreter, if you do not understand what is being said in English
- Remain silent and do not answer questions any questions or information

ICE at the workplace:

- Agents can only enter the private spaces if they have a warrant signed by a judge with the workplace address listed and they can only search the areas specified. However, agents may enter public areas of the workplace but they cannot detain, question, or arrest anyone without a warrant.
- Ask to see their identification.
- Do not answer or share any information with the agents - remain silent

“After Jan. 1, 2018, California Law will prohibit anyone from giving agents voluntary consent to enter nonpublic areas of a workplace without a judicial search warrant. And, starting on July 1, 2018, state law will require employers to notify employees about upcoming federal document

inspections, and it will prohibit any document reverification that is not required by federal law” (Legal Aid At Work 2024).

Canva Links:

Spanish Version

English Version

Emergency plan

Create a plan in case anyone in your family or yourself is deported:

1. Keep identity and personal documents in a secure place or with someone you trust. Documents may include: immigration or criminal records. If you have children, keep your children's documents in a safe place as well.
2. Have contact information with you at all times. This may contact information for family, doctors, or your children's school phone number.
3. Search for a lawyer to seek legal advice on your case if you're detained.
4. If you're taking medication be sure to write down the medication or if you have any health issues.
5. If you have children be sure to create a plan of who can pick up your children from school and take care of them if you're detained. Write down the school location and phone number.
6. Have a financial plan in case someone needs to access your funds.

Extra Resources:

1. For those facing deportation
 - a. CHIRLA (213) 201-3797 for a consultation;
<https://www.chirla.org/what-we-do/programs-initiatives/legal-services/removal-defense/>
2. Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project
 - a. Take Pro Bono cases; <https://www.esperanza-la.org/programs-pro-bono-program>
 - b. Educational programs for detained adults, immigrants, and released youth to the LA immigration court jurisdiction;
<https://www.esperanza-la.org/programs-community-edu-program>
3. Legal Aid Foundation of LA
 - a. immigration lawyers and lawyers who specialize in other areas
 - b. <https://lafla.org/get-help/immigration/>
4. Legal service providers (search on PDF has a whole bunch of orgs who offer legal services)
 - a. <https://www.lausd.org/cms/lib/CA01000043/Centricity/Domain/577/Parent%20Resources/ComResourceGuideEng.pdf>
5. Immigration resources: legal help (free or low cost)

- a. <https://selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/immigration/legal-resources>

6. Shelters

QR Code for Pamphlets

Spanish

- Public View Link:
https://www.canva.com/design/DAGX8qdY3L4/fjmCdtJVzbl9hbxePgtScw/view?utm_content=DAGX8qdY3L4&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=editor
- QR Code (used link above)



English

- Public View Link:
https://www.canva.com/design/DAGX7I26X2k/8h-DqoUu21QW39kox5z3fA/view?utm_content=DAGX7I26X2k&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=editor
- QR Code (used link above)



Work Cited:

<https://www.nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-what-to-do-if-arrested-detained-immigration/>

<https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/immigrants-rights#ive-been-stopped-by-police-or-ice>

<https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/when-stopped-officer>

https://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/imm_enfrmt_know_rts_CA.pdf

<https://www.aclusocal.org/en/know-your-rights/ice-agents-your-door>

<https://www.immigrantdefenseproject.org/emergency-preparedness/>