Immigration: Know Your Rights!

BE PREPARED! A "KNOW YOUR RIGHTS" GUIDE FOR IMMIGRANTS IN NYC

I. KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

You have the right:

- To be silent;
- To an interpreter;
- To a lawyer;
- To make a phone call;
- Not to answer questions about your place of birth, immigration status or how you entered the United States;
- Not to sign documents you don’t understand;
- To ask if you are detained. If you are not detained, you can leave.

What you should know about your documents:

- Do not carry in your possession any false identity or immigration documents.
- Do not carry any documents about your country of origin.

If ICE officers come to your home, they can only enter the home if:

- Someone in the home allows them to enter; OR
- They have a search warrant signed by a judge with the name and address of the person they are looking for. Ask ICE to push the warrant under the door or through a window.

Otherwise **DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR.**
II. MAKE A PLAN

1. At all times:
   - Carry your valid green card, work permit, NYS or NYC ID;
   - Make copies of all your immigration documents and give copies to a trusted family member or friend;
   - Carry receipt notices for any pending immigration case or court hearing;
   - **Memorize** the telephone numbers of a family member/friend and of an immigration lawyer or legal services provider; *(LSNYC hotline: 917-661-4500, Mon–Fri 10am–4pm)*
   - Find the emergency telephone number of your country’s consulate and memorize the number.

2. Find someone you trust to care for your children if you are detained:
   - Make sure your children have this person’s telephone number and that they know what to do if you do not return home;
   - Make sure your children’s school knows who can and cannot pick up your child from school;
   - Write down instructions if your child has any medical conditions;
   - Draft a Power of Attorney to allow a relative or friend to make decisions about your child;
   - If you have U.S. citizen children, make sure they have U.S. passports. You can apply for a passport at any U.S. post office and at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)

3. If detained by ICE, let your family and friends know how to find you:
   - Family and friends can call ICE at 212-264-5085 or search online at [www.ice.gov/locator](http://www.ice.gov/locator)

Our Legal Assistance Hotline is open Monday through Friday from 10am to 4pm. Call 917-661-4500 to speak to an intake officer in any language.