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

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

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.