OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

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ATTORNEY GENERAL

Civil Rights Hotline
1-877-581-3692

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Following federal executive actions on immigration, the Office of the Attorney General issued information to help immigrants living in Illinois protect themselves and their loved ones from unconstitutional and discriminatory action. Every resident of Illinois has constitutional rights that protect them if they encounter law enforcement, regardless of their citizenship or immigration status. The following information is designed to help you understand your rights and responsibilities when interacting with law enforcement.

Your Rights

If you are confronted by a police officer or immigration agent:

- If you are not a U.S. citizen and you are carrying your immigration papers, you must show your papers to an immigration agent if the agent asks to see them.
- You have the right to remain silent and you are not required to answer any questions. You may tell the police officer or immigration agent that you choose to remain silent.
- If the police officer or immigration agent asks to search you, your belongings, your car or your home, you may refuse to consent to the search.
- The officer or agent may pat you down if they believe you are carrying a weapon.

If police officers or immigration agents come to your home:

- You do not have to open the door if police officers or immigration agents come to your home and do not have a warrant.
- If you are unsure if the officer is an immigration agent, you may ask what agency they represent and specifically if they are immigration agents or from ICE.
- You may ask the officers or agents why they are there.
- You may ask for an interpreter if they do not speak your language.
- If the officers or agents say they have a warrant, you may ask to see it before letting them inside.
- If the warrant is issued by a court and signed by a judge, the officers may enter your home. If the document is not signed by a judge, you are not required to let them inside. You may say: “You are not allowed to enter.”
- If the officers or agents force their way into your home, do not resist. You may tell them: “You are not allowed to enter. I do not consent to a search. I wish to remain silent. I wish to speak with an attorney as soon as possible.”

If you are arrested:

- Do not attempt to resist arrest.
- You have the right to request to speak with an attorney.
- You have the right to request an interpreter.
- Remember, you do not have to say anything or answer any questions before speaking with an attorney.
- You have the right to consult with an immigration attorney before making any decisions about your case or signing any documents. No one can force you to make a final decision or sign a document if you do not fully understand it.

Important Reminders

- Carry valid identification with you at all times. If you have immigration documentation, carry your valid immigration papers and work permit with you at all times.
- Memorize your A number.
- Do not carry false or fraudulent documents, and never provide false or fraudulent documents to a police officer or immigration agent.
- Only show a temporary visitor's driver's license (TVDL) if it is requested to establish that you are properly authorized to drive a car. A TVDL cannot be used for identification purposes.
- If you have an encounter with police officers or immigration agents, write down as much information about the encounter as possible in case you feel your rights have been violated and you choose to file a complaint.

Beware of Dishonest Immigration Services Providers

- Immigration services providers are not attorneys and cannot provide legal advice. More information about legal services and immigration services providers is available at http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/rights/immigrant.html.

Additional Resources

National Immigrant Justice Center:
http://www.immigrantjustice.org/know-your-rights-manuals-detained-immigrants

American Civil Liberties Union:
https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights

The Attorney General's Civil Rights Bureau protects the civil rights of all Illinois residents. The bureau enforces civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination, works to strengthen civil rights laws and participates in community outreach programs. The bureau also investigates complaints of patterns and practices of discrimination in housing, public accommodations, employment and financial matters.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE DOES NOT REQUEST INFORMATION ABOUT IMMIGRATION OR CITIZENSHIP STATUS FROM ANYONE WHO CONTACTS THE OFFICE.

The Attorney General encourages individuals to contact the office to report instances of discrimination or harassment by calling the Civil Rights Hotline at 1-877-581-3692.