

Student Services

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

What to Do if You Are Questioned, Arrested or Detained by Immigration and Other Law Enforcement

Who might ask me about my immigration status?

- Any law enforcement officer could ask you questions about your background, immigration status, family, or coworkers. This includes immigration officers, local police, state police, and federal agents.
- When people talk about "Immigration," they usually mean Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Customs and Border Protection (CBP).
 - ICE handles immigration enforcement inside the U.S.
 - CBP is in charge at the border.
- ICE agents might dress like regular police officers by wearing badges or uniforms. They might even call themselves "police."

For more information on what to do if you encounter an immigration officer impersonating a police officer, go to [ICE NOT WELCOME: Verify, Document and Report.](#)

What should I do if Immigration or other law enforcement talks to me on the street?

- **Stay quiet.** You have the right to *remain silent*. You don't have to answer questions about where you were born, where you live, where you're from, or if you have immigration papers.
 - If you have already started answering, you can stop at any time.
 - Never lie about your immigration status—it can get you in serious trouble.
- **Ask for a lawyer.** You don't have to talk about your background or immigration status until you speak to a lawyer.
- **Show your papers if you have them.** If you have immigration documents, you should carry them and show them when asked.
 - If you don't have documents, you can refuse to answer questions about your status.

What should I do if Immigration comes to my door?

- **Check the warrant.** If it's not signed by a judge, you don't have to let them in. You can say:
 - "I don't want to talk right now."
 - "I do not have to let you in."
- **Do not sign anything.** This includes any documents like an "order of voluntary departure."
- **Don't share personal details.** Don't tell them where you were born or how you entered the U.S.

What can parents do?

- **Make a plan for your children's care.**
 - Keep a list of important documents for your kids.
 - Pick someone you trust to care for your children if you can't.
 - Fill out a "Caregiver" affidavit so another adult can care for your kids temporarily.
- **Keep an immigration lawyer's phone number handy.**

Other Resources:

- Keep this information handy: download the printable [door hanger](#).
- <https://www.justia.com/lawyers/immigration-law/california/los-angeles/legal-aid-and-pro-bono-services>
- TODEC Legal Center 1560 Sixth Steet Coachella, CA 760-698-8787
- To locate a person detained by ICE:
<https://locator.ice.gov/odls/#/search> or 1-800-898-7180



VERIFY their identity and purpose.
DOCUMENT the encounter.
REPORT what happened.