

How to Handle ICE



This is a dangerous time to be a person of color.

Across the nation, people are being detained under suspicion of gang or criminal activity, sometimes simply because of tattoos.

This situation is out of control. Many in our country are fighting back against these violations of *habeas corpus*—also known as *due process*. That principle means there is a legal procedure that must be followed. Everyone has the constitutional right to present and defend their case. Right now, that right is not being respected.

Until this changes, it is essential that you know your rights and how to protect yourself if you encounter ICE.

Memorize these steps. Learn the English phrases. They can save you.

Emergency Action Plan for Encounters with ICE (Green Card Holders)

◆ 1. Do Not Run

Stay calm. Do not run or resist. This can be used against you and make things worse.

◆ 2. Know Your Rights

You have the right to remain silent.

You do not have to answer questions about:

- Your immigration status
- Where you were born
- How you entered the country

Say clearly:

“I choose to remain silent. I want to speak to a lawyer.”

◆ 3. Do Not Sign Anything

ICE may pressure you to sign “voluntary departure” papers or documents that give up your rights.

Respond politely:

“I will not sign anything without speaking to my lawyer.”

◆ 4. Do Not Show False Documents

Never present false documents or lie to ICE. This will harm your case.

◆ 5. Ask to Speak to a Lawyer

You do not have the right to a free lawyer in immigration court, but you *do* have the right to hire one.

Say:

“I want to speak with my lawyer before answering any questions.”

◆ 6. Carry a “Know Your Rights” Card

Keep a small card in your wallet that states:

“I am choosing to remain silent and wish to speak to an attorney. I do not give you permission to enter my home without a warrant signed by a judge.”

◆ 7. At Home: Do Not Open the Door Without a Judge’s Warrant

Ask to see a warrant signed by a judge (not an ICE administrative order).

Request they hold it up to a window or slide it under the door.

Say:

“Do you have a warrant signed by a judge? If not, I do not consent to entry.”

◆ 8. Memorize Important Numbers

- Your immigration lawyer’s phone number
- A trusted friend or family member who can help if you are detained

◆ 9. Prepare for Emergencies

Keep the following in a safe place:

- Copies of your green card and passport
- List of medications and medical needs
- Emergency contact information
- Power of attorney if you have children
- Letters of support from employers, community leaders, or churches

◆ 10. If You Are Detained

You may qualify for bond and a hearing before an immigration judge.

Tell your lawyer or family to request a “cancellation of removal” hearing.

A lawful permanent resident may qualify to stay in the U.S. if:

- They have held a green card for at least 5 years
- Lived in the U.S. for more than 7 years
- Have not been convicted of an aggravated felony

✓ Quick Phrases to Remember

- **“I am remaining silent. I want to speak to a lawyer.”**
- **“I do not consent to a search.”**
- **“Do you have a warrant signed by a judge?”**
- **“I will not sign anything without speaking to a lawyer.”**

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★ What to Carry

- Green card
- “Know Your Rights” card

- Copy of your emergency plan
 - Immigration lawyer's contact information
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Final Reminder

Learn and repeat these phrases in English. ICE agents may judge people unfairly based on how they speak. Answering in clear English can make them hesitate before accusing you of being undocumented.

Repeat this phrase until you are allowed to speak with a lawyer:

“I have the right to remain silent. I wish to speak to my lawyer.”

Do not say anything else.

Stay safe. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

— **Head Guerilla**