



CHICAGO IMMIGRATION ADVOCATES  
LAW OFFICES

## **FACT SHEET – KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**

**February 3, 2025**

### **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: ICE AT YOUR DOOR**

If ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) comes to your home, **you have rights:**

1. **Do Not Open the Door** – ICE **cannot** enter your home unless they have a **judicial warrant** (signed by a judge). An **ICE warrant (Form I-200 or I-205)** is **NOT** a **judicial warrant** and does **not** grant them entry.
2. **Ask for a Warrant** – Request that they slide it under the door or show it through a window. A valid **judicial warrant** will:
  - Be issued by a **court** (not just ICE or DHS).
  - Clearly state a **judge's signature**.
  - Specify a **search or arrest authorization for your address**.
3. **Do Not Consent to Entry** – If ICE does not have a valid **judicial warrant**, you **do not** have to let them in. **Simply say, "I do not consent to entry."**
4. **Remain Silent** – You have the right **not to answer questions**. You can say:  
*"I choose to remain silent and want to speak to a lawyer."*
5. **Do Not Sign Anything** – ICE may try to pressure you into signing documents that could **waive your rights** or agree to deportation. **Do not sign anything** without consulting an attorney.
6. **Document the Encounter** – If possible, **record** the interaction or take notes. Ask witnesses to do the same.
7. **Contact a Lawyer** – If you are detained or have concerns about your status, seek legal advice immediately.

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### **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: ICE AT YOUR WORKPLACE OR PLACE OF WORSHIP**

If ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) comes to your **workplace** or **place of worship**, you **have rights:**

1. **Stay Calm & Do Not Run** – Running may be used against you as evidence of wrongdoing.

2. **Ask for a Warrant** – ICE **must have a valid judicial warrant** (signed by a judge) to enter **private areas**. An **administrative warrant (Form I-200 or I-205)** is **NOT enough** to force entry.
    - If ICE presents a warrant, ask to see it.
    - If it's not **signed by a judge**, they **cannot** enter without permission from the employer, clergy, or other authority.
  3. **Do Not Answer Questions** – You **do not** have to provide information about your immigration status or where you were born. You can say:  
*"I choose to remain silent and want to speak to a lawyer."*
  4. **Do Not Sign Anything** – ICE may try to get you to sign documents that **waive your rights**. **Do not sign anything** without speaking to a lawyer.
  5. **If at Work, Know Employer Rights** –
    - Employers **do not** have to allow ICE into private areas without a valid judicial warrant.
    - Employers **should not** share employee records without a subpoena or warrant.
  6. **If at a Place of Worship** – Many religious institutions are considered **sensitive locations**, where enforcement is **discouraged** but not prohibited. If ICE arrives, **notify leadership immediately**.
  7. **Document the Encounter** – If possible, **record or write down** details of the interaction, including officer names and badge numbers.
  8. **Seek Legal Help** – Contact an immigration attorney immediately if detained or questioned.
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## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: ICE ENCOUNTERS IN PUBLIC

If you are approached by **ICE officers** on the street or in a public place, **remember your rights**:

1. **Stay Calm & Do Not Run** – Running may be used against you as evidence of wrongdoing.
2. **You Have the Right to Remain Silent** – You **do not** have to answer questions about your immigration status, where you were born, or how you entered the U.S.
  - You can say: *"I choose to remain silent and want to speak to a lawyer."*
3. **Do Not Show False Documents** – Never present fake papers or falsely claim U.S. citizenship. This can have serious legal consequences.
4. **Ask if You Are Free to Leave** – If you are **not** under arrest, you can ask: *"Am I free to go?"*
  - If the officer says **yes**, walk away calmly.
  - If the officer says **no**, remain silent and ask for a lawyer.

5. **Do Not Consent to a Search** – ICE **cannot** search you, your belongings, or your phone without your consent or probable cause. You can say:  
*"I do not consent to a search."*
6. **Do Not Sign Anything** – ICE may pressure you into signing documents that could affect your immigration case. **Do not sign anything** without speaking to an attorney.
7. **Document the Encounter** – If possible, take notes, record the interaction, or ask witnesses to do so.
8. **Seek Legal Help** – If detained, request a lawyer immediately. You have the right to legal counsel, but the government **does not** provide free immigration attorneys.