

**WELCOME
OFFER**

**99¢ FOR 1
MONTH**

Gain unlimited access to our
exclusive stories.

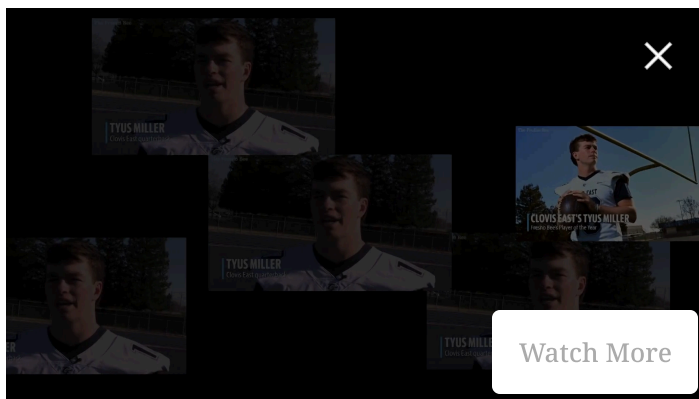
SUBSCRIBE NOW

CALIFORNIA

What to do if you're detained by Border Patrol as raids in Central California continue

By **María G. Ortiz-Briones**

Updated January 10, 2025 10:56 AM |  4





Hundreds of people joined a rally in Sacramento on Monday, Dec. 2, 2024, in protest of Trump's mass deportation plan and to protect immigrant Californians. By Renée C. Byer



Only have a minute? Listen instead

Powered by **Trinity Audio**

00:00



1.0x

06:27

Immigrant rights organizations in Central California are alerting immigrant families of their constitutional rights after a [Border Patrol operation this week resulted in dozens of arrests](#) throughout Kern County and within the city limits of Bakersfield.



“Farm workers and immigrants are being to
attorney Sofia Corona said.

[Watch More](#)

TOP VIDEOS

X

Corona said agents are asking for the documentation of people who look a certain way, known as racially profiling, and targeting drivers who are on their way to work, “focusing on a highway that farm workers routinely use to go to work.”

Rosa Lopez, a Bakersfield-based senior policy advocate with the ACLU of Southern California said, “please remind people if stopped by CBP to invoke their right to remain silent, don’t consent to a search, don’t sign any documents, and asked to speak with an attorney,”

The Rapid Response Network of Kern County is pushing out a hot line number [661-432-2230](tel:661-432-2230), where people can call to get c
one was detained and to report CBP/ICE act



The organization also has [information on h
detained by ICE](#).

“We ask that people remain vigilant and no
suspected ICE or CBP activity,” Corona said. “We are working diligently to inform
our community members of their rights, such as the right to remain silent and
request to speak to an attorney. We will not stand by while this happens to our
community.”

Watch More



Regardless of immigration status, all individuals in the United States have rights.

Those include:

- The right to remain silent if a person has contact with a law enforcement official.
- The right to not open the door to their homes to a law enforcement official.
- The right to due process.
- The right to have a day in court and be represented by a lawyer.



Immigrant rights groups and community organizations are distributing red cards that detail constitutional rights during immigration encounters.

The red cards include reminders that constitutional rights apply to everyone, regardless of immigration status.

[Watch More](#)





The ILRC's Red Cards help people assert their rights and defend themselves in many situations, such as when ICE agents go to a home.

Red cards can be obtained for free from immigrant rights organizations, such as Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative (CVIIC).



The cards help people assert their rights in agents go to a home, according to the ILRC, including [Hmong](#), [Punjabi](#), [Spanish](#), [Tagalog](#)

[Watch More](#)

Your rights with Border Patrol



On private property: Border Patrol agents cannot go into private land more than 25 miles north of the border without a warrant or consent. Agents may enter onto private property without a warrant within 25 miles of the border.

In the car: Border patrol “roving patrols” cannot pull over vehicles to question occupants about their immigration status unless agents have a “reasonable suspicion” of an immigration violation or crime. Reasonable suspicion is more than just a “hunch”. In California and Arizona, it is illegal for a border patrol to rely on the race or ethnicity of a driver or passenger to justify a stop.

At checkpoints: Border Patrol may stop vehicles at certain checkpoints to do two things: 1. Ask a few limited questions to verify citizenship or immigration status of the vehicles’ occupants and 2. visually inspect the exterior of a vehicle.


At Border Crossing: Agents at Ports of Entry may question people about their citizenship and what they are bringing into the country. Even though you always have the right to remain silent, if you don’t answer questions to establish your citizenship, officials may deny your entry into the U.S or detain you for search and or questioning.

In Jail or Detention: If you are detained, you have the right to speak to an attorney. If you are not detained, you have the right to speak with your consulate or embassy and to a lawyer.










[Watch More](#)





KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WITH BORDER PATROL

U.S. Customs & Border Protection ("CBP"), which includes the U.S. Border Patrol, claims authority to conduct operations as far as 100 miles inland from the border. In reality, there are many important legal limitations on what CBP can do. Know your rights!

 <h2>ON PRIVATE PROPERTY</h2> <p>Border Patrol cannot go onto private land more than 25 miles north of the border without a warrant or consent. Agents may enter onto private land without a warrant within 25 miles of the border.</p> <p>Border Patrol agents cannot enter a home or dwelling on private land anywhere without a warrant or consent.</p> <p>Border Patrol should not cause physical damage to private property.</p>	 <h2>IN THE CAR</h2> <p>Border Patrol "roving patrols" cannot pull over vehicles to question occupants about their immigration status unless agents have a "reasonable suspicion" of an immigration violation or crime. Reasonable suspicion is more than just a "hunch."</p> <p>Generally, the further you are from the border, the less likely it is that agents will have "reasonable suspicion" of an immigration violation to justify a stop.</p> <p>Agents should always be able to explain the reason for a stop to the driver.</p> <p>In California and Arizona, it is illegal for Border Patrol to rely on the race or ethnicity of a driver or passenger to justify a stop.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Border Patrol cannot search the interior of a vehicle without the owner's consent or "probable cause" (that is, a reasonable belief, based on the totality of the circumstances, that an immigration violation or crime likely is occurring or has occurred). Agents can obtain probable cause for a search if a drug-sniffing dog legitimately "alerts" to the presence of drugs. If Border Patrol uses a drug-sniffing dog and falsely claims the dog has alerted to the presence of drugs or contraband in your vehicle, record as much information about the incident as possible and report it to the ACLU. 	 <h2>AT CHECKPOINTS</h2> <p>Border Patrol may stop vehicles at certain checkpoints to do two things: 1) ask a few, limited questions to verify citizenship or immigration status of the vehicles' occupants and 2) visually inspect the exterior of a vehicle.</p> <p>Agents may send any vehicle to a secondary inspection area for the same purpose: brief questioning and visual inspection.</p> <p>Agents should not ask questions unrelated to verifying citizenship or immigration status, nor can they hold you for an extended time without cause.</p> <p>Even though you always have the right to remain silent, if you don't answer questions to establish your citizenship or immigration status, officials may detain you longer to verify this information. You may refuse to answer other questions.</p> <p>NEVER FLEE A CHECKPOINT!</p>	 <h2>AT BORDER CROSSINGS</h2> <p>Agents at Ports of Entry may question people about their citizenship and what they are bringing into the country.</p> <p>Even though you always have the right to remain silent, if you don't answer questions to establish your citizenship, officials may deny you entry into the U.S. or detain you for search and/or questioning.</p> <p>Agents may search any person, the inside of any vehicle, and all passenger belongings. Agents do not need a warrant, any suspicion of wrongdoing, or consent to do any of these things at a Port of Entry.</p> <p>Agents at Ports of Entry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cannot use excessive force cannot conduct more intrusive searches (like strip searches) or detain an individual for an extended period unless they have "reasonable suspicion" of an immigration violation or crime should not damage personal property during an inspection <p><small><i>Notes: The government asserts that agents don't need any suspicion to search personal electronic devices like computers and phones. Agents do, however, have to have reasonable suspicion to hold a device for an extended period of time or to conduct invasive searches of that device.</i></small></p>	 <h2>IN JAIL OR DETENTION</h2> <p>If you are detained, you have the right to remain silent and the right to speak to an attorney. If you are a citizen of another country, you also have the right to speak with your consulate.</p> <p>You may be asked where you were born, how you entered the U.S. or how long you've been here. You don't ever have to answer those questions. Your responses may be used to detain and deport you.</p> <p>Do not sign anything without talking to a lawyer. If you are not a U.S. citizen, signing certain documents may mean you are giving up your opportunity to try to stay in the United States.</p> <div> <p>If you feel your rights have been violated, CONTACT THE ACLU.</p> <p>CALL US  (619) 398-4187</p> <p>WEBSITE  www.aclusandiego.org/BLP</p> </div>
---	--	---	--	--

Not intended to serve as legal advice. Consult with an attorney if you have specific questions about your situation.

The ACLU provides information about knowing your rights with Borter Patrol.

Things to remember

Never provide fake documents or say you a federal crime to lie to a federal officer.



Watch More

If you are approached on the street or in a public place away from the border, you do not have to answer agents' questions or provide identification. Ask if you



are free to go. If you are not free to go, you are under arrest and have the right to remain silent.

If you are stopped, detained or harassed by Border Patrol, try to get the agent's name, badge number, and any other identifying information.

It is not against the law to videotape or record interactions with Border Patrol on private property, in vehicle stops and at checkpoints. CBP prohibits videotaping or recording anything on government property at a port of entry.

What to do if ICE detains you or a loved one

If someone you know has been detained, they will be processed at the local ICE field office before being transferred to a detention [facility](#). In the Central Valley, the Mesa Verde Detention Center is located in the city of Bakersfield. Detainee locator: locator.ice.gov

Have the right information: To locate someone, you will need personal information to identify them including the country of birth and the A-Number. If you don't have an A-Number, you can look them up by full name, date of birth and country of birth.



If you are afraid to return to your home country, know that fear of returning to your home country is a common experience.

Find an immigration attorney: Act fast and immediately help you understand the options you or your loved one might have.

[Watch More](#)



Remember your rights: to remain silent and the right to be an attorney. If detained, you have the right to make a phone call. Do not speak about your immigration status or sign any documents without your attorney present.

“The RRN of Kern and other partner are hosting several KYR (Know Your Rights) events throughout the county,” said Lopez who is also an organizer and a member of the Rapid Response Network of Kern.

Visit the website www.rapidresponsekern.com for more information.

**WHAT TO DO IF:
ICE
Detains You
or a
Loved One**

**LOCATING A
DETAINEE
FRIEND
OF FAMILY**

If someone you know has been detained, they will be processed at the local ICE Field Office before being transferred to a detention facility.

ICE Field Office: (661) 328-4500
800 Truxtun Avenue,
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Detainee Locator:
locator.ice.gov

Mesa Verde Detention Center: (661)859-1028
425 Golden State Avenue,
Bakersfield, CA 93301

**HAVE THE RIGHT
INFORMATION.**

In order to locate someone, you will need personal information to identify them. You will need the country of birth and the A-Number. If you do not have an A-Number, you can look them up by full name, date of birth, and country of birth.

**FIND AN
IMMIGRATION
ATTORNEY.**

Are you afraid to return to your home country? If you get arrested let ICE agents know that fear of returning to your home country.

Once you or someone you loved is detained, it is important to act fast and seek an immigration attorney immediately.

**REMEMBER
YOUR RIGHTS!**

**RAPID RESPONSE
NETWORK OF KERN**

The Rapid Response Network of Kern County provides information

[Watch More](#)

This story was originally published January 10, 2025 at 10:27 AM.

X

Get major news fast with an alert sent to your e-mail inbox.

SIGN UP

By submitting, I agree to the [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).

RELATED STORIES FROM FRESNO BEE

LOCAL

Immigration crackdown expanding in Central California, Border Patrol says in update

January 09, 2025 2:00 PM

LOCAL

These constitutional rights apply to all, even with Trump's promise of mass deportations

December 08, 2024 5:30 AM



María G. Ortiz-Briones

The Fresno Bee



559-441-6782

María G. Ortiz-Briones is a reporter and photographer for McClatchy's Vida en el Valle publication. She covers issues that impact the Latino community in the Central Valley. She is a regular contributor to La Abeja, The Bee's free weekly newsletter on Latino issues. | María G. Ortiz-Briones es reportera y fotógrafa de la publicación Vida en el Valle de McClatchy. Ella cubre temas que impactan a la comunidad latina en el Valle Central. Es colaboradora habitual de La Abeja, el boletín semanal gratuito de The Bee sobre temas latinos.

Support my work with a digital subscription



Watch More

X

Take Us With You

Real-time updates and all local stories you want right in the palm of your hand.



FRESNO BEE APP →

VIEW NEWSLETTERS →

SUBSCRIPTIONS

[Start a Subscription](#)

[Customer Service](#)

[Edition](#)

[Vacation Hold](#)

[Pay Your Bill](#)

LEARN MORE

[About Us](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Newsletters](#)

[Archives](#)

[Sports Betting](#)

[Personal Finance](#)

ADVERTISING

[McClatchy Advertising](#)

[Place an Ad](#)

[Place a Classified Ad](#)

[Place an Ad - Celebrations](#)

[Place an Obituary](#)

[Staffing Solutions](#)

[Political | Advocacy Advertising](#)

Part of the McClatchy Media Network

COPYRIGHT

**PRIVACY
POLICY**

**YOUR PRIVACY
CHOICES**



[Watch More](#)

X