Know Your Rights:
When Encountering Immigration Officials

You have the right to remain silent

If ICE approaches you, you have the right to remain silent. Clearly say, "I choose to remain silent," and do not answer questions about your immigration status or how you entered the U.S. If detained, ask to speak to a lawyer before saying anything. Planning ahead with legal guidance is important.

Remain Calm and Do Not Run Away

If ICE approaches you on the street, do not run. This can be seen as a reason for arrest. Do not consent to a search or provide foreign or false documents. You may ask, "Am I free to leave?" If yes, walk away calmly. Talk to an attorney about what documents you should carry.

You have the right to ask for a Judicial Warrant before agents enter your home

Under the U.S. Constitution, individuals are protected from unreasonable searches and seizures, which means ICE cannot enter a home without a valid judicial warrant. An ICE warrant that is not a judicial warrant does not grant authority to enter or search a home. If ICE claims to have a warrant, do not open the door. Instead, ask them to slide it under the door or show it through a window for review.

You have the right to speak with an attorney if you are arrested

If you are in ICE custody, do not sign any documents without first speaking with an attorney, as doing so may waive your right to legal representation or to a hearing before an immigration judge.

You have a right to film and record.

Under the First Amendment, you have the right to record or take photos of law enforcement and ICE in public spaces, as long as you do not interfere with their actions or an arrest. It is also advisable to collect relevant details about the incident, such as names, contact information for witnesses, and badge numbers.

Disclaimer: This Know Your Rights flyer provides general information. It is not legal advice.Talk to an immigration lawyer for legal advice about your specific situation.