

Know Your Rights at Home and in Public

Q: Will I be able to recognize the federal agents?

A: Agents may wear uniforms labeled "Police," "Federal Agent," "HSI," or "ICE" and may be accompanied by local law enforcement. It is important to stay calm and follow company procedures.

Q: What are my rights if ICE arrives at my home or questions me in public?

A: Your rights include:

- **Right to Speak with an Attorney.** If you are detained or questioned, you have the right to contact and hire an attorney. You should refuse to sign any paperwork until you have had the opportunity to speak with an attorney.
- **You Do Not Have to Open the Door.** The only time you must let agents into your home is if they have a valid warrant signed by a judge.
 - An ICE deportation warrant is not the same as a search warrant. If an ICE deportation warrant is the only document the agents have, they cannot enter your home unless you verbally agree to let them in.
 - If the officers say they have a search warrant signed by a judge, ask them to slide it under the door or hold it up to a window so that you can see and inspect it.
 - If the warrant does not have your correct name and address on it and is not signed by a judge, you do not have to open the door.
 - If at any point you decide to speak with the agents, you do not need to open the door to do so. You can speak to them through the door or step outside and close the door.
- **You May Refuse a Search.** If you are stopped for questioning but are not arrested, you do not have to consent to a search of yourself or your belongings. However, please note that an officer may "pat down" your clothes if they suspect you have a weapon.

- **Right to Remain Silent.** You are not required to answer questions from the government about your immigration status, where you were born, or how you entered the United States. You do not have to share information about other family or community members either. Some state laws require you to provide your name to law enforcement if asked, but you do not have to answer other questions. You should tell the officer that you are exercising your right to remain silent. Do not lie about your name, status, or provide false documents.
- **Right to Refuse Documentation Requests.** You are not obligated to provide identification or papers that disclose your nationality or citizenship.
- **Freedom of Movement.** Agents cannot require you to stand in specific groups based on immigration status. You may move to a neutral area.

Q: Can ICE lie to me?

A: Yes, ICE can use lies to get you to take specific actions. You do not have to agree with an officer's statement or follow them to their office or any other government office.

Please [contact](#) Garfinkel Immigration Law Firm for further guidance or assistance with immigration questions.

This Q&A is intended for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.

