Little Tokyo Service Center

213-473-3030

Know Your Rights

Adapted from resources by Asian Americans Advancing Justice

Non-U.S. Citizens who are stopped, arrested, or detained by immigration or other law enforcement have certain rights. Non-U.S. Citizens should be especially mindful when encountering immigration enforcement at the border or points of entry.

On the street:

- You generally have the right to REMAIN SILENT.
- You should never lie about your immigration status, as that can have serious consequences.
- You have the right to SPEAK TO A LAWYER. You should speak to a lawyer before you answer questions about your background or immigration status.
- If applicable, carry valid immigration documents and show if you are asked.
- If you are undocumented, you can refuse to answer questions about your immigration status or whether you have documents.

At the border or airport:

- Immigration enforcement can stop, detain, or search you. They cannot search you based on your race, gender, religious, or ethnic background.
- Immigration enforcement have the authority to ask you about your immigration status, the purpose of your visit, and other questions to determine if you have permission to enter the U.S.
- Remaining silent can result in law enforcement denying you entry into the U.S.
- ALWAYS SPEAK to an immigration lawyer before leaving the U.S.

At work:

- You have the right to REMAIN SILENT.
- DO NOT attempt to run away. Immigration will suspect that you are undocumented and attempt to arrest you. It is safer to continue working and calmly ask if you may leave.

If arrested:

- ASSERT YOUR RIGHTS. Carry a Know Your Rights card with you and hand it to the arresting agents.
- You have the right to REMAIN SILENT. You do not have to answer any questions, especially ones about your immigration status.
- You have the right to SPEAK TO A LAWYER.
- DO NOT SIGN any documents without speaking to a lawyer first.
- ASK to call a family member or friend if you have children with you when you are arrested or need to call in to work.
- WRITE DOWN the name and telephone number of the deportation officer assigned to your case, as well as your Alien Registration Number, or A-number.

For immediate assistance if there is a raid or you are being detained, you can contact:

Los Angeles Raid Response Line: 888-624-4752