



IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT RESOURCE & KNOW YOUR RIGHTS TOOLKIT

This resource was developed by the Mexican American Legislative Caucus (MALC) for MALC members and their staff to provide valuable information and resources to constituents. This document is intended for informational use only and does not constitute legal advice. If you or someone you know has been detained or has questions regarding their immigration situation, contact an immigration attorney.

RESOURCES

To Report Immigration Enforcement, Call 1-844-363-1423, United We Dream MigraWatch Hotline—This hotline is a nationwide hotline that allows people to report immigration enforcement activity and provides immediate guidance for callers.

For Assistance While Detained, Call 9223#, the National Immigration Detention Hotline—This hotline provides nationwide assistance for individuals inside detention free of charge. Callers will receive assistance connecting with their loved ones, documenting abuse, and other resources.

For Texas-Specific Assistance, Call 1-833-468-4664, the [Houston Immigrants' Rights Hotline](#)—This hotline provides callers assistance from understanding new immigration policies to finding legal service providers. Please note, the hotline only takes calls Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

For Austin-Specific Assistance, Call 512-270-1515, Austin Community Defense Line—This hotline serves the Austin area only and provides callers with emergency assistance when a loved one has been detained.

For San Antonio-Specific Assistance, Call 210-361-3070, San Antonio Rapid Response Hotline Network—This hotline serves the San Antonio area only and provides callers with emergency assistance when a loved one has been detained.

[Find Free Immigration Legal Assistance](#)—Immigration Law Help is an online resource that provides information for organizations in Texas that provide legal services to low-income Texans, often free of charge.

[Find Immigration Legal Assistance](#)—The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, voluntary bar association for immigration legal professionals. The organization maintains a nationwide directory of trusted and practicing immigration attorneys.

[We Have Rights](#)—The We Have Rights video series was created by a coalition of immigration and civil rights organizations to help families plan for immigration enforcement actions. The videos are easy to understand and provided in eight commonly spoken languages.

[ICE Detainee Locator](#)—U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement maintains a database of all individuals currently in detention. You can locate an individual in custody by searching their A-number or other biographical information. Please note that while this tool is generally updated every few days, some have reported difficulty searching for loved ones since the government shutdown began.

[Find a Detention Center in Texas](#)—This page provides information for all immigration detention centers in the State of Texas, including links to the detention center websites. Each center's website provides important information about sending packages, money, and protocols for visitors and phone calls.

[DACA Updates for Texas](#)—Provided by Texas Immigration Law Council, this document provides the most up-to-date information for DACA recipients in Texas. This document is current as of 09.30.2025.

[Get Copies of Your Immigration Records](#)—Provided by Texas Immigration Law Council, this document provides information on how immigrants can obtain their immigration records using the Freedom of Information Act.

[New Immigration Fees: What You Need to Know](#)—Provided by Texas Immigration Law Council, this document provides updated information on new increases in fees for common immigration applications.

[Financial Handbook for Families Facing Detention & Deportations](#)—Provided by Families for Freedom, this handbook provides a comprehensive guide to assist families facing deportation in financial planning.

[Family Preparedness Folder](#)—This folder contains multiple documents for immigrant families to prepare for emergency situations of detention or deportation. These documents were compiled by Texans United for Justice Coalition.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

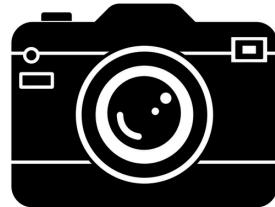
If You're Detained, You Have a Right To:

1. Remain silent.
2. Call an attorney. If you cannot afford one, you can ask for a list of free or low-cost legal services.
3. You do NOT have to sign anything, especially without consulting with an attorney.
4. Contact your consulate or ask an officer to contact your consulate on your behalf and let them know where you are.
5. If you have children with you, you can tell officers and ask to contact someone to care for those children.



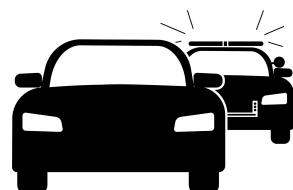
If You See Someone Being Detained You Have a Right To:

1. Record all immigration and law enforcement agents in public places, so long as you do not interfere with their duties.
2. Refuse to consent to a search of your phone or camera.
3. Refuse to delete any footage or photos you have legally captured.
4. Write down important information, such as badge numbers, names of officers, vehicle descriptions, events that occurred.
5. Ask the person being detained if they would like you to call someone for them.



If You're Pulled Over

1. Remain silent.
2. You do not have to answer any questions about your immigration status.
3. You do not have to provide ID unless you are the driver of the vehicle.



4. Ask questions.
 - a. You can ask why the ICE agent or police officer pulled you over.
 - b. You can ask for an interpreter if you need one.
 - c. If you're a passenger, you can ask if you are free to leave.
 - d. You can ask to speak with a lawyer.
 - e. You can ask to contact your consulate or ask for an officer to contact your consulate if you are arrested.
5. You do NOT have to consent to a search of your vehicle or person.
 - a. Note that if police believe your vehicle contains evidence of a crime, they can search it without your consent.
6. Call an attorney. If you cannot afford one, you can ask for a list of free or low-cost legal services.

If Police or ICE Are at Your Home You Have a Right To:

1. Remain silent.
2. You do NOT have to open your door or consent to search your home without seeing a valid warrant signed by a judge.
 - a. You can ask for the paper warrant to be slid under the door or shown through a window.
3. You do NOT have to answer any questions about your immigration status, where you were born, or how you entered the country.
4. Ask questions.
 - a. You can ask why the ICE agent or police officer is at your door.
 - b. You can ask for an interpreter if you need one.
 - c. You can ask to see a search warrant.
 - d. You can ask to speak with a lawyer before you sign anything or if you are arrested.
 - e. You can ask to contact your consulate or ask for an officer to contact your consulate if you are arrested.
5. Call an attorney.



Recognizing & Reporting Civil Rights Abuses

1. Abuse and misconduct by agents can look like:
 - a. Coercion, intimidation, threats
 - b. Discrimination or inappropriate questioning
 - c. Physical, verbal, sexual abuse
 - d. Forcing someone to sign papers that they do not understand or do not want to sign

- e. Denying someone interviews with an asylum officer.
- 2. Write down everything you remember about the incident and the date the document was made.
 - a. Include the name of the official or agency, the day, hour, and place where the abuse occurred, and any other details you can remember.
- 3. Contact an attorney if you believe your civil rights were violated.
 - a. Contact a Texas-based immigration help hotline for direction or a trusted immigration or civil rights attorney or organization for assistance.
 - b. Some trusted organizations currently involved in lawsuits related to immigration enforcement actions include:
 - i. ACLU Texas
 - ii. Texas Civil Rights Project
 - iii. National Immigrant Justice Center
 - iv. MacArthur Justice Center
 - v. Justice Action Center
 - c. Discuss with an attorney your options for [reporting the abuse](#) to the Office of Civil Rights & Civil Liberties Division of the Department of Homeland Security.
 - d. [Report the incident](#) to Texas immigrant justice organizations to help advocates understand what's happening in communities and work to change it.
- 4. Consider sharing your experience with a news media organization to ensure documentation.

General Tips for Emergency Preparedness

- 1. Carry important documents with you at all times including:
 - a. Most up-to-date immigration documents which include your A# (alien number), if you have one.
 - b. Contact information for your immigration attorney, if you have one.
 - c. Contact information for your loved ones.
 - d. Important medical information including contact information for your doctor and names and/or dosages of any medication you regularly take.
- 2. Keep documents in a place where your loved ones can easily access them. Include information such as:



- a. Immigration history documents, including any immigration applications submitted or documents showing your A# (alien number), if you have one.
- b. Criminal history documents, including any rap sheets or court documents related to your cases.
- c. Contact information for your immigration attorney.
- d. Contact information for your child's school or daycare.
- e. Contact information for your loved ones.
- f. Important medical information including contact information for your doctor and names and/or dosages of any medication you regularly take.

3. Prepare for childcare or dependent needs if you become unavailable.
 - a. Designate a trusted friend or neighbor who can watch your children or dependents in the event you become unavailable.
 - b. Make sure you share with potential caregivers any medical conditions your child or dependent has and how to address their needs. Be sure to include contact information for doctors and information on medications and allergies.
 - c. If possible, consult with a lawyer about whether to grant a trusted family member or friend the power to make legal decisions for your child or dependent if you are detained or deported.
4. Plan for the financial needs of you and your family.