



# WHAT TO DO DURING AN ENCOUNTER WITH IMMIGRATION (ICE)



## IF ICE COMES TO YOUR HOME, DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR.

ICE can not enter your home without a search warrant. If the agents say they have a warrant, ask them to pass the warrant to you under the door. Do not open the door. Confirm the name and address on the warrant to make sure it is a valid warrant with your name or someone who lives at your address. Also check that the warrant is signed by a judge. An ICE warrant is not the same as a judicial warrant. During home raids, the agents often say they have a judicial warrant when all they have is an ICE warrant. **DOCUMENT WHAT HAPPENED.** Ask for the ICE agents' names and badge numbers. Write down and take pictures of everything that happened during the raid.

## IF ICE APPROACHES YOU ON THE STREET OR PUBLIC PLACE, ASK: "Am I free to go?" and STAY SILENT.

ICE cannot detain you to question you without a reason. Before giving ICE your name or any information, ask if you are free to go. If they say "yes," leave the location. If they say "no", tell them you don't want to answer any questions and you need to speak to a lawyer. **DO NOT AUTHORIZE A SEARCH.** If ICE attempts to search you or your property, say "I do not consent to this search." **DO NOT RUN.** If you run, this could help ICE develop a legal reason to stop you.

## REMEMBER:

**PREPARE** yourself and your family in case you are arrested. Memorize your family's and lawyer's phone numbers. Make emergency plans if you have children or medical needs. Keep copies of important documents with someone you trust.

**STAY SILENT.** Do not answer any of ICE's questions or give them any information. Anything you say can be used against you.

**DO NOT RESIST ARREST.** Even if ICE is detaining you wrongfully, do not resist the arrest.

**DO NOT LIE OR SHOW FALSE DOCUMENTS.** If you are a US Citizen or have lawful status, show proof. If you do not have immigration documents, tell ICE that you want to remain silent. Avoid showing documentation from your home country.

**ASK TO SPEAK TO A LAWYER.** Do not say anything, and do not make any decisions without speaking to a lawyer.

**DO NOT SIGN.** The ICE agents could tell you that you need to sign some documents. Do not sign anything until consulting with your lawyer.

**YOU CAN RECORD, IF SAFE.** If you are not interacting with the ICE/CBP agents and are safe, feel free to record any interactions with the agents, but please announce that you are making a recording and remain at a reasonable distance from such incidents so as not to interfere.



Source: New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice (2016). Know Your Rights Cards.  
[https://www.njimmigrantjustice.org/know\\_your\\_rights\\_workshops](https://www.njimmigrantjustice.org/know_your_rights_workshops)