



## **Law Office of the COOK COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER**

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### **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WHEN INTERACTING WITH IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS AND ENFORCEMENT (ICE)**

Everyone residing in Cook County, including undocumented people and others who are not U.S. citizens, has constitutional rights regardless of their immigration status. The following information is designed to help you understand your rights when interacting with immigration agents or agencies designated to assist Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

#### **If you are outdoors and think you see immigration officers nearby:**

- Move to a safe indoor space.
- If you are a U.S. citizen and feel safe to do so, record the activity with your phone or write down any relevant information about what you witness. ALWAYS being careful to not interfere or otherwise obstruct the operation.
- DO NOT:
  - Post unverified information on social media.
  - Interfere with the investigation or otherwise put yourself in harm's way.

#### **If you are confronted by an immigration agent:**

- You should remain calm and keep your hands where the officer or agent can see them.
- You have the right to remain silent and you are not required to answer any questions. You should tell the immigration agent that you choose to remain silent.
- You do not have to discuss your immigration or citizenship status or your country of birth, with the police, immigration agents, or any other officials. You should exercise your right to remain silent if questioned.
- If you have any valid immigration documentation, such as a permanent resident card, an employment authorization card, or a certificate of naturalization, you may show your documentation to an immigration agent if asked for them.
- The agent may pat you down if they believe you are carrying a weapon.

#### **If immigration or other federal agents come to your home:**

- You do not have to open your door if immigration or other federal agents come to your home and do not have a warrant signed by a judge. The majority of the time, ICE only has an administrative warrant, which is signed by an ICE agent and not a judge. You are not required to open the door based on an administrative warrant.
- If you are unsure if the person is an immigration agent or otherwise working with ICE, you may ask what agency they represent and specifically if they are immigration agents or working with ICE.
- If the agents say they have a warrant, you should ask to see the warrant before letting them inside.
- If the warrant is issued by a court and signed by a judge, the agents may enter your home without your permission. If the document is not signed by a judge, you are not required to let them inside. You may say: "You are not allowed to enter."



- If the agents force their way into your home, do not resist. You may tell them: “You are not allowed to enter. I do not consent to a search. I wish to remain silent. I wish to speak with an attorney as soon as possible.”
- You may ask the agents why they are there.
- You may ask for an interpreter if they do not speak your language.

**If you are arrested:**

- Do not attempt to resist arrest.
- You can request to speak with an attorney.
- You can request to speak with an interpreter.
- Remember, you should exercise your right to remain silent and do not have to say anything or answer any questions before speaking with an attorney. Do not lie to the agent.
- You have the right to consult with an immigration attorney before making any decisions about your case or signing any documents. No one can force you to make a final decision or sign a document if you do not fully understand it.

### **Important Reminders**

- Memorize your “Alien Registration Number” (“A number”) if you have one.
- If you have immigration documentation, always carry your valid immigration papers with you.
- Do not carry documentation from your country of origin, such as your foreign passport or matrícula consular.
- Do not carry false or fraudulent documents and never provide false information or false or fraudulent documents to an immigration agent.

### **Cook County Public Defender's Office Immigration Division**

The Immigration Division of the Cook County Public Defender's Office aims to protect noncitizen clients from deportation. The division works with assistant public defenders representing clients before the Circuit Court of Cook County to ascertain potential adverse immigration consequences arising from their Cook County cases and recommend alternate resolutions. Our attorneys represent noncitizens, including current and former public defender clients, before Immigration Courts.

**If you or a loved one are detained by ICE and are a Cook County resident, contact the Public Defender’s Immigration Division at 312-603-0636 during hotline hours: Wednesdays 9-11am or email [pdimmigrationunit@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:pdimmigrationunit@cookcountyil.gov).**

For more information about the Immigration Division, visit our Immigration Division Resources webpage at <https://www.cookcountypublicdefender.org/resources/immigration-division>.





## Additional Resources

Non-Cook County residents detained in the Chicago ICE district and seeking legal representation can call the National Immigrant Justice Center's Detention Project at 773-672-6599 on Tuesdays from 11am to 2pm.

If you observe immigration enforcement activity or need help locating someone who has been detained, you can call the Organized Communities Against Deportation (OCAD) [Deportation Support Hotline](#) at 1-855-435-7693. This same number is also the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) [Family Support Hotline](#).

For more information about the Immigration Division, visit our Immigration Division Resources webpage at <https://www.cookcountypublicdefender.org/resources/immigration-division>.

For more information on Cook County resources for immigrants, visit Cook County's Immigration Resources webpage at <https://www.cookcountyil.gov/immigration>.

## Help for Anyone Arrested in Cook County by Local Police

The Cook County Public Defender also operates an Arrest Hotline 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If you or someone you know is in law enforcement custody, in Chicago or any other city or town in Cook County, call the Arrest Hotline at 844-817-4448. An attorney from the Cook County Public Defender's Office will come to the police station to represent you for free. If you are arrested by local police, you have the right to remain silent. You should say, "I will not talk, I want to see my lawyer."

