



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IN PUBLIC SPACES

All people in the United States, *including undocumented immigrants*, have Constitutional rights and protections. Neither immigration nor the police will assume you want to exercise your rights. You are in charge of asserting them by showing your Know Your Rights card or by telling the officer you are exercising your rights.

If you are in a public space, such as a street or sidewalk, and ICE (immigration officer) approaches, you have rights that protect you.

You should ask if you are free to leave.

If ICE approaches you in public, you may ask if you are free to leave. If the answer is “yes,” calmly, slowly, and quietly walk away. Do not run or speak. If they say “no,” do not walk or run away. Stay where you are.

You have the right to refuse a search.

You do not have to consent to a search of yourself or your belongings. State clearly that you do not consent. **Refusing consent may not stop the officer.** An officer may pat you down above your clothes if they suspect, for example, you have weapons or drugs in your possession. If the officer proceeds to pat you down or conduct a full search, stay calm, do not resist the inspection, and keep your hands where the officer can see them. Stating your objection preserves your rights. Thereafter, the officer cannot arrest you without a warrant or proof you have committed a crime.

You have the right to remain silent.

You do not have to answer any questions without the presence of your legal representative. (In some states, you may be required to state your name if an officer asks

you to identify yourself and an officer may arrest you for refusing to do so.) You can show the officer your Know Your Rights card or tell the officer you are exercising your right to remain silent. If you must speak, only say that you would like to speak to your legal representative before answering questions

- Only provide your identification when the law requires you to do so.*
- Do not tell the officer your country of nationality.
- Do not answer questions.
- Do not sign paperwork.
- Do not carry false documents.
- Do not physically interfere with the search.

You have the right to speak to a lawyer.

If the officer tells you that you cannot walk away, you have been detained. You should ask to speak to a lawyer and then remain silent. You have the right to speak to a legal representative. It is okay if you have not hired a legal representative; you still have the right to consult with one.

*Talk to a local advocate about whether and when you must produce identification. For example, in most states, you must show a driver’s license if you have one and you are pulled over; you also must show your immigration identification to an immigration officer who requests it if you have lawful status and are not a U.S. citizen.