



IMMIGRANT LEGAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

IF IMMIGRATION AGENTS STOP YOU and QUESTION YOU IN A PUBLIC PLACE (on a bus, on the street, in the public parts of a store or agency or building):



Ask “Am I under arrest or am I free to go?” If told *you are free to go*, politely say “Thank you, I don’t wish to talk with you” and walk away, or, if on a bus or in a business or agency, ignore them. If you speak with them, you are consenting to their questioning. If told *you are under arrest*, then say you want to speak to a lawyer before answering any questions. You do not even have to give your name. If you answer questions without waiting to speak to a lawyer, any information you give can be used against you.

IF IMMIGRATION AGENTS COME TO YOUR APARTMENT:

1. Do not let them in, or open the door completely until you ask “Do you have a warrant?” If no warrant, tell them you will not answer questions or let them in unless they have a warrant, and close the door.

2. If they have a warrant, you must let them in, but tell them you do not want to answer questions until you speak with a lawyer.



3. If they have no warrant but insist on entering: Say that you don’t consent to them coming in.

4. If they still insist on entering, you may decide to let them in but you should still say you do not consent. It is best if another person is there as a witness to this. Tell them you want to speak to a lawyer before answering questions.

IF IMMIGRATION AGENTS COME INTO A BUSINESS:



1. Immigration agents do NOT need a search warrant to enter the public parts of a business that is open to the public.

2. If Immigration agents question you in a public area of a business, follow the instructions, above, about what to do in a public place.

3. Immigration agents MUST have a search warrant to enter the private, employee-only areas of a business. If agents try to enter these areas, a manager should ask if they have a warrant, and if they don’t, the manager should tell them they cannot enter until they have a warrant. If they do not leave, call the police or a lawyer right away.

For more information or for legal help, call ILAP at 780-1593 or 1-800-497-8505 (toll-free).