

CITIZENS & IMMIGRANTS: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

For Anyone in Texas, These are Your Rights

✓ If you have a valid green card, work permit, or other papers showing legal status, carry them with you at all times. If you do not have those, carry a state ID or driver's license if it was issued in the United States.

✗ Do not carry documentation of your country of origin.



At a hospital or ER...

Texas hospitals and ERs are required to ask about your citizenship or immigration status.

You are not required to answer. Not answering should not affect what care you receive.

However, you may be required to show some form of photo ID.



If a police or immigration officer approaches...

IN A TRAFFIC STOP

Stay calm and polite, hands on the wheel or letting the officer know what you are doing. The driver is only required to share their name, driver's license and proof of insurance.

Video:



AT HOME

You do not need to open the door to anyone without a warrant. The warrant must be signed by a judge with your name, address, and permission to search. The officer can hand it to you through a window or slip it under the door. If they do not have one, politely say "Please Leave." If you receive a notice on your door to provide documentation, contact a lawyer to help you review the document and follow the directions if it is valid.

Video:



AT WORK OR IN PUBLIC

You do not need to respond to questions nor consent to a search of your person or belongings without an officer presenting a valid warrant. The warrant must be signed by a judge with your name, address, and permission to search.

You always have the right to:

- ✓ Ask for the officer's name and agency.
- ✓ Ask if you are free to go, and if not, ask why you are being detained or arrested.
- ✓ Ask to speak with a lawyer before signing anything or saying anything to the officer, except your name, birthday and address in the case of detention or arrest.



If you are being arrested...

You may ask to park your car where it will be safe or give your belongings to someone standing there with you. Do not run or resist.

You have a right to ask to speak with a lawyer before saying anything to the officer or signing anything. You have a right to speak with the lawyer by private phone call where the officer directs you to call. Any other phone calls may be monitored or recorded by law enforcement.



If someone else is being approached or arrested...

Do not interrupt an arrest, though you have a right to witness and even record it if you deem it safe. Follow officer instructions such as to move back.

Be Prepared

Inform trusted family, housemates, neighbors, and co-workers about your emergency information and these rights.

Your children

- ✓ If your child was born in the United States, **register your child's birth** with your country's government (for example, with your country's consulate).
- ✓ Make sure **all information and emergency contacts are up to date** at your children's school(s) including who can and cannot pick up your children.
- ✓ Complete a **non-parent authorization** so another adult can care for your children temporarily if needed.

Your Car

To avoid being pulled over:

- ✓ Keep your car registration and insurance up to date
- ✓ Keep lights working
- ✓ Do not hang things from your rearview mirror
- ✓ Ensure front and rear license plates are clearly displayed
- ✓ Do not exceed maximum window tint percentage (25%) on front and front side windows
- ✓ Follow speed limits and all other traffic laws
- ✓ Keep your inspection sticker up to date

Documents & Finances

- ✗ Do not use false information.
- ✓ Start saving money. You may need money to hire an attorney and for toiletries and food during detention.

Emergency Information

- ✓ Create a **file of important papers** and give your emergency contacts access to it. Include any lawyer's contact information, copies of legal status documents or application, non-parent authorization, location of backup home key, car key, any important bills that need to be paid to keep the home or car.
- ✓ Set up your phone and any other device where you have status information with **6-digit number passcode protection** (not pattern, face or fingerprint recognition) to protect the information on there from access or deletion.
- ✓ Set up a **power of attorney** with an emergency contact so they can access your bank account and other needed assets in case of your arrest or detention.

More Tips

- ✓ **If you** have been in the country less than a year and have been a victim of a crime, **or** you have a family member who is a U.S. citizen, **then** you may be able to apply for asylum or other legal status. Do it immediately because the process takes time.
- ✓ If you have legal documents allowing you to be in the US but **have lost your documents**, correct that immediately.
- ✓ Take a photo of your ID, passport, immigration papers and/or any other important papers, and share that with a trusted contact and/or be ready to share in case of emergency.
- ✓ Contact a lawyer and/or go to a *Know Your Rights* clinic to help with this preparation.

Learn more about immigration at texaslawhelp.org



The information in this pamphlet created by

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