

Know Your Rights!

AT IMMIGRATION COURT

If you are in removal (deportation) proceedings,
you have the right to a hearing before an immigration judge.

Here are a few reminders **about attending immigration court:**

You have the right to a lawyer, but you must find and pay for your own lawyer or accredited representative. You can ask the judge for more time to find a lawyer or prepare your case.

You also have the right to an interpreter if you do not speak English.

You have the right to apply for any type of “relief from removal” that you are eligible for. Please consult a lawyer on types of “relief from removal”.

- If you are afraid of being harmed in your country of origin, say, **“I am afraid to go back to my home country,”** to the judge and to any ICE officials, as early and as often as possible.



If you see ICE, stay calm.
Running away can be unsafe.

**You have the right not to tell ICE
agents your name.**

See ICE at court?

Call your local Rapid Response Hotline
immediately to report activity.
Write down hotline info below:

LOCAL RAPID RESPONSE GROUP



HOTLINE PHONE NUMBER

REMEMBER TO BE **C.I.E.A.R!**

Count

The # of agents/vehicles present

Location/Direction

Where they are, direction headed

Equipment/clothing

Describe clothing, weapons, vehicles

Activity

What is happening

Report time

Time and date of activity

Information last updated November 2025. None of the information in this document should be considered legal advice. Please speak to an immigration attorney or Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) accredited representative about your particular case.



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You have the right to share evidence and bring witnesses in support of your case. You should be able to see all the evidence the government uses and respond to it.

- If the government attorney asks to dismiss your case, you can ask for a continuance (more time) so that you can respond to their motion. Say, ***“I would like a continuance.”***
- If the immigration judge does not give you more time, you can say, ***“I oppose dismissing my case.”*** Explain why you think your case should be heard.
 - You can say, ***“I have due process rights to have my case heard;”***
 - ***“I have been and I am complying with all immigration rules;”*** or
 - ***“Dismissing my case would make my process longer and hurt me, my family, my community.”***

If the judge dismisses your case, **you have the right to appeal.**

- There is a possibility that ICE will try to detain you. If they detain you and you are afraid of being harmed in your country of origin, you can explain that to each official you speak to and ask for a **credible fear interview**. You can ask to postpone your credible fear interview to allow you to speak with your attorney.
- If you do not show up for a scheduled immigration court hearing, you will likely receive a removal order and be subject to arrest, detention and rapid deportation.

IF YOU ARE DETAINED

Create an emergency plan ahead of time for what to do in case you are detained.

EMERGENCY PLAN

- ☒ Attorney contact
- ☒ Phone number of emergency contact (caretaker, family, other)
- ☒ Plan for finances, caretaking, and more

Ask someone to notify your attorney and your family. It may be helpful to have these phone numbers memorized.

You do not have to answer any agents' questions. This is known as the right to remain silent. You can say ***“I would like to remain silent. I would like to speak to an attorney.”***

You have the right to speak to an attorney. If you currently don't have a lawyer, ask to be referred to a list of possible lawyers.

Do not sign anything without speaking to an attorney first.

