

## YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

- ◆ Be polite and calm.
- ◆ Never lie to a police officer or immigration agent.
- ◆ Do not carry false ID.
- ◆ If you are over age 18 and have immigration documents, carry them with you at all times.
- ◆ Carry the name and phone number of an immigration attorney who will take your calls.
- ◆ Keep a copy of all of your immigration documents with someone you trust and can call if you are detained.

## IF YOU ARE ARRESTED

- ◆ Do not resist arrest.
- ◆ Give the name or card of your attorney to the agent and ask to speak to your attorney. Do not talk about your situation or status or try to “explain” the situation.
- ◆ If you do not have an attorney, ask for the list of free legal services in your area.
- ◆ Do not sign anything without talking to an attorney.
- ◆ You have the right to an interpreter in your own language. Do not sign anything in a language that you do not understand.

- ◆ It is illegal for agents or police to pick someone for questioning because of his or her ethnicity or race.
- ◆ You have a right to be treated with dignity and respect. If you are beaten, threatened, called racist names or mistreated, you have the right to complain about your treatment.
- ◆ Be aware that just because you know your rights and choose to exercise them does not mean that the agents or police will follow the law and respect your rights.

**To learn more about your rights or if you believe your rights have been violated, please contact the ACLU of Pennsylvania:**

**877-745-2258**

**Present this card to police officers or immigration agents who question you.**

### MY RIGHTS CARD

I am giving you this card because I do not wish to speak to you or have any further contact with you. I choose to exercise my right to remain silent and to refuse to answer your questions. If you arrest me, I will continue to exercise my right to remain silent and to refuse to answer your questions. I want to speak with a lawyer before answering your questions.

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

**WITH THE POLICE AND  
IMMIGRATION AGENTS**

**ON THE STREET,  
AT YOUR HOME &  
IN YOUR CAR**

**ACLU of Pennsylvania**  
P.O. Box 4008  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
[www.aclupa.org](http://www.aclupa.org)



## **YOUR RIGHTS ON THE STREET**

First, always ask the police officers or immigration agents if you can go. If they say yes, you have the right to remain silent and leave. If you do not want to talk to the police officers or immigration agents, you may hand them your attorney's card or the Rights Card included in this brochure and leave. You have the right not to answer any questions they may ask.

If a police officer says that you are not free to go, you should give your name. You do not have to give any other information such as your address or immigration status.

If an immigration agent says that you are not free to go and requests your immigration papers, you must give them if you have them with you. If you do not have your immigration papers with you, say that you do not have the papers with you and say nothing else.

### **A NOTE ABOUT RIGHTS**

Even if you know and exercise your constitutional rights, the police might not honor them. You should never use force or physically resist police officers or immigration agents, even when you know they are wrong. You will lose every time. Challenging police misconduct cannot be done on the street. It can only be done by a lawyer in court afterwards.

## **YOUR RIGHTS AT HOME**

You do not have to open the door to any immigration agents or police officers unless they have a search warrant from a court with your address on it.

If you do not want to let the immigration agents or police officers inside, do not open the door. Ask the agents or officers, through the closed door, if they have a search warrant from a court allowing them to search your home. You have a right to read the warrant.

If there is a warrant from an immigration officer with your name on it, then you have the right to not allow the officers in your home and go outside to see the officers.

If you live in someone else's house, you still do not have to open the door unless the immigration agents or police officers have a search warrant from a court with the correct address on it.

If you do not understand the police officers or immigration agents, you have the right to an interpreter.

## **YOUR RIGHTS IN YOUR CAR**

If police officers or immigration agents signal you to stop your car, you must pull over. If police officers or immigration agents ask to search your car, you may refuse to give them permission.

Police officers may ask for your name, driver's license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance. You must show these documents if you have them. In Pennsylvania, you can use a valid foreign driver's license with an international driving permit for up to one year.

You do not have to answer any other questions or show any other documents. You should not answer any police officer's questions about your immigration status. If a police officer writes up a citation, s/he will ask you to sign the citation. This is not an admission of guilt; you are just agreeing that you received it.

If immigration agents ask you questions, give them your name and your immigration documents, if you have them. You do not have to answer any questions.

If a police officer or immigration agent questions a passenger, that person should ask if s/he has to answer. If the police officer or immigration agent says yes, the passenger must give his or her name, but does not have to give any other information. The officer or agent may ask you and your passenger to exit the car.