



## **American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut**

### ***KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IF YOU ARE CONTACTED OR DETAINED BY IMMIGRATION***

#### **IF YOU ARE STOPPED OR CONTACTED BY AN IMMIGRATION OFFICER**

##### **AT YOUR HOME:**

If an immigration officer wants to enter your home, ask to see the warrant. You do not have to let the officer into your home if there is no warrant. A warrant is a court order that says what areas of your home the officer has the right to search, and what may be seized. Watch what the officer does (and if anyone else is present, have them be a witness), and note whether the officer searches other areas that are not listed on the warrant. Do not let the officer into your home if he/she cannot show you a warrant. If the officer enters without a warrant and without your permission, state that you do not give consent but do not interfere because you may be arrested.

You do not have to answer any questions. Call your lawyer as soon as possible. Write down the name, badge number and agency of the officer. Be aware that your roommate or a guest can give permission for an officer to enter your home if the officer believes that person has the authority to give consent.

##### **AT WORK:**

Your employer can consent to a search of your workspace without your permission. If you are approached by an immigration officer while at work, tell the officer that you need to speak with your lawyer first before answering any questions.

##### **ON THE STREET:**

If an immigration officer stops you, ask: "Am I under arrest, or am I free to go?" If the officer does not state that you are under arrest, tell him/her that you do not wish to continue speaking. You do not have to answer questions. Call your lawyer as soon as possible. Get the name, agency, badge number, phone number and license plate number of any immigration officer that visits you or treats you badly. Give this information to your lawyer.

## **IF YOU ARE DETAINED BY IMMIGRATION**

1. You have the right to remain silent. *Anything you say or try to explain to immigration can be used against you!* If you do speak, do not lie; it is a crime to lie to a government agent.
2. You have the right to call a lawyer or your family. If you do not have a lawyer, tell the immigration officer that you want to speak with one before answering questions. The government will not pay for or provide you with a lawyer, but it must give you a list of lawyers who may be able to represent you for free or low cost. If you see a judge before finding a lawyer, ask the judge for more time to find one.
3. Find a lawyer who specializes in immigration and specifically in deportation. If you have a lawyer, at all times keep his/her information on you.
4. Do not sign anything before you speak with your lawyer. Read and understand completely anything that you sign, especially the consequences of signing it.
5. You have the right to call your consulate. Immigration must allow your consulate to visit or speak with you. Your consulate may be able to help you find a lawyer or contact your family. You can refuse consular help.
6. In most cases you have the right to a hearing before an immigration judge, to defend yourself against deportation charges. If you waive your rights or take voluntary departure, you could be deported without a hearing. You can also be deported without a hearing if you have criminal convictions, if you have no papers (if you crossed the border, came on a false passport or overstayed a visa), if you came to the U.S. through the visa waiver program, or if you had been ordered deported in the past. To find out if you had been ordered deported in the past, call the Immigration Court (EOIR) hotline.

## **FOR FAMILY MEMBERS OF THOSE DETAINED**

Keep the following information about your loved one:

1. Alien Registration Number. This number begins with the letter A and is followed by a series of numbers (example A99 999 999). It can be found on your I-94 card in your passport, on your green card, or other immigration documents.
2. The date your loved one entered the U.S., and how he/she entered (visa, cross the border, green card through marriage)
3. Your loved one's criminal record. You must have a list of the precise criminal convictions. Include the date of the arrest, the date of the conviction, and the sentence. If possible, get a copy of the RAP sheet. Also get a Certificate of Disposition for each conviction from the clerk's office in the courthouse where the criminal case was heard.
4. A copy of your loved one's immigration paperwork.

5. Any documents that show your loved one is of good character and has strong community ties.
6. The name and contact information of an immigration lawyer.

To locate your loved one who is detained:

You can call United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at the number below. Ask to speak with a supervisory deport officer. Give your loved one's full name and A number. You may also contact your consulate, the different detention facilities, or wait until your loved one calls you. Remove any blocks on your phone for collect calls. When you hire a lawyer, make sure it is one that specializes in deportation. Keep the information of every lawyer you had. Make sure you receive copies of everything your lawyer files. Get a written contract before you give your lawyer any money. Make sure you read and understand the retainer agreement your lawyer gives you. If your lawyer cheated you, file a complaint with the Attorney Grievance Committee at 860-568-5157.

Hartford Correctional Center  
860-240-1800  
177 Weston Street, Hartford, CT 06120

York Correctional Institution  
860-691-6700  
201 West Main St., Niantic, CT 06357

Wyatt Detention Facility  
401-729-1190  
950 High Street, Central Falls, RI 02863

Hartford Immigration Court  
860-240-3881  
Room 509  
450 Main St., Hartford, CT 06103

Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
860-240-3012  
450 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103

Immigration Court (EOIR) hotline  
1-800-568-5157