



Immigration Services Providers: Frequently Asked Questions

The Office of the Attorney General will NOT ask about your immigration status

What is an Immigration Services Provider?

An Immigration Services Provider is a person who assists consumers with immigration law matters. Immigration Services Providers must be registered with the Office of the Attorney General.

Immigration Services Providers are NOT attorneys, are NOT supervised by attorneys, are NOT accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals and CANNOT provide legal advice.

What is the difference between an Immigration Services Provider and an attorney?

An Immigration Services Provider can:

- Give you materials, law books and forms so you can prepare legal documents yourself.
- Give you a list of forms and legal documents.
- Type or fill out forms for you IF you tell the provider what to write.
- File forms in court for you IF you tell the provider what to file.
- Serve legal papers on other parties.

An Immigration Services Provider cannot:

- Tell you what forms you need for your case.
- Fill out forms for you if you do not tell the provider what to write.
- Tell you for what kind of immigration category (such as asylum or labor certification) you should apply or give you any other legal advice.
- Promise to get you a green card, work visa, or other benefit for ineligible immigrants.
- Tell you that they know someone on the “inside” or have connections with USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services) or INS (Immigration Naturalization Service) to expedite your application.
- Use terms in their advertisements, stationery, or business cards implying that the provider is an attorney (such as “notario” or “poder notario”).

An attorney can:

- Give you legal advice about forms and legal documents.
- Tell you which forms are needed for your case and fill them out.
- Tell you for which immigration category you should apply.
- File and serve legal papers.

Can a notary (notario) handle my immigration case?

No. Unlike in Latin America, in the United States, notaries (notarios) are not licensed attorneys, so they cannot provide legal advice on immigration matters.

How can I find a registered Immigration Services Provider?

Call the Attorney General's Office to see if they are registered.

What should I ask an Immigration Services Provider before hiring him or her?

- What is your educational background and work experience?
- How much do you charge?
- What are the terms of the contract?
- Will you provide a receipt for my payment?
- Do you have translations for all documents I have to fill out and sign?

How can I find an attorney?

For a private attorney, contact:

- American Immigration Lawyers Association: 1-800-954-0254, <http://www.aila.org>
- Chicago Bar Association: 312-554-2001, <http://www.chicagobar.org>

Once you find an attorney, check to make sure they are licensed at: <https://www.iardc.org>

For low-cost or free legal services:

- National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC): 312-660-130, <http://www.immigrantjustice.org>
- Centro Romero: 773-508-5300, <http://www.centroromero.org>

- Chicago Legal Clinic: 773-731-1762, <http://www.clclaw.org>
- Latinos Progresando: 312-850-0572, <http://www.latinospro.org>
- Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago: 312-341-1070, <http://www.lafchicago.org>

What do I do if my loved one is detained by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement)?

You should contact one of the low-cost legal referrals immediately. For additional information, you can also visit www.immigrantjustice.org/client/programs/detainedservices.html.

Chicago
1-800-386-5438
1-800-964-3013 (TTY)

Springfield
1-800-243-0618
1-877-844-5461 (TTY)

Carbondale
1-800-243-0607
1-877-675-9339 (TTY)

Línea Gratuita en Español : 1-866-310-8398

www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov