The Attorney General's Civil Rights Bureau protects the civil rights of all Illinois residents. The bureau enforces civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination, works to strengthen civil rights laws and participates in community outreach programs. The bureau also investigates complaints of patterns and practices of discrimination and brings lawsuits to enforce civil rights laws.

If you believe your civil rights have been violated, you should report the violation to the ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE. If you are unsure if your situation is covered by civil rights laws, you can contact the Civil Rights Hotline at 1-877-581-3692. The Attorney General encourages individuals to contact state government officials to report instances of discrimination or harassment.

If you are confronted by a police officer or immigration agent, you may not be able to speak your language. If you do not understand an officer's or agent's questions, you should ask them to speak more slowly or in writing or ask for an interpreter. You also have the right to request an attorney. If you choose to file a complaint, you should make a detailed account of the encounter and keep any notes or additional information you have. If you are arrested, you have the right to consult an attorney before making any decisions about your case. You also have the right to request that an attorney be present during any questioning by the police or immigration agents. You have the right to request an interpreter if they do not speak your language. You have the right to remain silent and you are not required to answer any questions. You may tell the officer or agent that you choose to remain silent.

If the officer or agent says they have a warrant, you may ask not to be arrested before letting them inside. If the warrant is issued by a judge and signed by a judge, it may be used to arrest you. If the warrant is not signed by a judge, you may ask whether the officer or agent is allowed to enter. If the agent asks to see your immigration papers, you must show your papers to an immigration agent. If you are not a U.S. citizen and you are carrying your immigration papers, you must show your papers to an immigration agent.

In the event of a police or immigration agent forcing their way into your home, do not resist. You may tell them: "You are not allowed to enter." If the officer or agent say they have a warrant, you may refuse to consent to the search. If the police officer or immigration agent asks to see your documentation, you must show your documents. If the police officer or immigration agent ask if you have a TVDL, you may show a temporary visitor's driver's license if it is requested to establish that you are properly authorized to drive a car. A TVDL cannot be used for identification purposes. Only show a temporary visitor's driver's license when it is specifically requested. Do not carry false or fraudulent documents, and never provide false or fraudulent documents to a police officer or immigration agent.

The American Civil Liberties Union and the National Immigrant Justice Center are additional resources for information about civil rights and immigration services.

**Important Reminders**

- Carry solid identification with you at all times. If you have a driver's license, use it when you can. Carry your valid immigration papers and work permit with you at all times.
- Memorize your A number.
- Do not carry false or fraudulent documents, and never provide false or fraudulent documents to a police officer or immigration agent.
- If you have an encounter with police officers or immigration agents, write down as much information as possible in case you feel your rights have been violated and you choose to file a complaint.

**Beware of Dishonest Immigration Services**

- Immigration services providers are not attorneys and cannot provide legal advice. More information about legal services is available at [http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/].
- Immigration services providers are not attorneys and cannot provide legal advice.
- Do not trust anyone who promises to change your immigration status.
- Remember, you do not have to say anything or answer any questions before speaking with an attorney.
- Do not attempt to resist arrest.
- If police or immigration agents come to your home and do not have a warrant, do not allow them to enter. You may say: "You are not allowed to enter." If the officers or agents force their way into your home, do not resist. You may tell them: "You are not allowed to enter." Do not do a search. I wish to remain silent. I wish to consult with an attorney at all times as possible.
- You have the right to consult with an immigration attorney before making any decisions about your case or signing any documents. You also have the right to request that an attorney be present during any questioning by the police or immigration agents. You also have the right to request an interpreter if they do not speak your language. You also have the right to remain silent. I wish to consult with an attorney as soon as possible.
- Do not attempt to resist arrest.
- If police or immigration agents come to your home and do not have a warrant, do not allow them to enter. You may say: "You are not allowed to enter." If the officers or agents force their way into your home, do not resist. You may tell them: "You are not allowed to enter." Do not do a search. I wish to remain silent. I wish to consult with an attorney at all times as possible.
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