Every resident of Illinois has constitutional rights regardless of their citizenship or immigration status. The following information is designed to help you understand your rights and responsibilities when interacting with law enforcement.

Your Rights

1. If you are confronted by a police officer or 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 if the agent asks to see them.
   - You have the right to remain silent and you are not required to answer any questions. You may tell the police officer or immigration agent that you choose to remain silent.
   - If the police officer or immigration agent asks to search you, your belongings, your car or your home, you may refuse to consent to the search.
   - The police officer or agent may pat you down if they believe you are carrying a weapon.

2. If police officers or immigration agents come to your residence:
   - You do not have to open the door if police officers or immigration agents come to your residence and do not have a warrant.
   - You may ask the officers or agents what agency they represent and specifically if they are immigration agents from ICE.
   - You may ask the officers or agents why they are there.
   - You may ask for an interpreter if they do not speak your language.
   - If the officers or agents say they have a warrant, you may ask to see it before letting them inside.
   - If the warrant is issued by a court and signed by a judge, the officers may enter your home. If the document is not signed by a judge, you are not required to let them inside. 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. I do not consent to a search. I wish to remain silent. I wish to speak with an attorney as soon as possible.”

3. Beware of Dishonest Immigration Service Providers:
   - Immigration services providers are not attorneys and cannot provide legal advice. More information about legal services and immigration services providers is available at: https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/Rights-of-the-People/civil-rights/Immigration/

Additional Resources

National Immigrant Justice Center:
http://www.immigrantjustice.org/know-your-rights-manuals-detained-immigrants

American Civil Liberties Union:
https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights

The Attorney General’s Civil Rights Bureau protects the civil rights of all Illinois residents.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE DOES NOT REQUEST INFORMATION ABOUT IMMIGRATION OR CITIZENSHIP STATUS FROM ANYONE WHO CONTACTS THE OFFICE.

To report instances of discrimination or harassment call the Attorney General’s Civil Rights Hotline at 1-877-581-3692.