

This information is not formal legal advice. If you need specific and immediate legal aid, contact the Sikh Coalition.

Scan the QR Code for all of Sikh Coalition's Know Your Rights Resources.



Right to Remain Silent

- You never have to answer questions from ICE. This is called “the right to remain silent.”
 - You can say: “I do not wish to speak with you, answer your questions about my immigration status, or sign or hand you any documents based on my 5th Amendments rights under the United States Constitution.”
 - ICE may try to repeat their questions or scare you to answer their questions or lie to you by saying that you must answer. You do not have to answer their questions, and you can simply say “I do not want to answer.”

If ICE says they are arresting you:

- Ask the officer why you are under arrest.
- Ask for proof or ask to see what warrant or papers they have to arrest you.
- Do not sign anything without speaking with an attorney first.



If you have legal status:

- If you are a U.S. Citizen, tell the ICE officer you are a citizen. If you are over the age of 18, ICE may ask for your I.D. (identification card); you can show your driver's license, state identification card, or copy of your passport page.
- If you are a Green Card Holder, you should always carry a copy of your green card on you.
 - Tell ICE you have your green card; if ICE asks for proof of your status, you must show ICE your green card.
 - If your green card is expired, you should get it renewed—but you still have legal status as a green card holder in the meantime.
- If you have a current and valid visa to be in the United States, you should tell ICE that you have immigration status. If ICE asks, show them a photo of your visa on your phone or a copy of your visa that you keep in your wallet
 - If you have been granted asylum, you must carry a copy of the I-589 Approval Notice or the Immigration Judge's Order granting you asylum. If an ICE officer asks for proof of your status, you must show the ICE Officer a copy of the Asylum approval.
- In general,
 - If you have a nine digit "Alien Identification Number" (also called an "A number"), know that number and have it written out for your family. With this number, they can find you if ICE arrests you.
 - Presenting photos or copies of documents should be enough. It may be risky to carry original documents on your person given how hard they can be to replace.
 - Do not show ICE documents issued by foreign governments (e.g. an Indian passport), because these can be used against you.

If you do not have legal status or you do not know your status:

- Do not carry or show ICE a copy of your foreign passport; this can be used against you by ICE.
- Stay silent or say you want to speak with your attorney. You have the right to an attorney, but the government will not appoint one for you.
- Do not sign anything without speaking with an attorney first.
- Note that ICE can and will still arrest people who have serious medical conditions, physical handicaps, or require life-saving treatments.
 - If ICE is arresting you, you should tell them right away of any medical conditions you have and if you require medication.
 - If you take life-saving medicine, you should carry a copy of the prescription with you so you can tell ICE what medicines you need and how often.