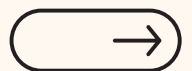




Removal Defense & Protection: Know Your Rights Emergency Pocket Guide

A Practical Protocol for Interacting with Law Enforcement and
Immigration Officials



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Welcome & Overview

Encountering law enforcement or immigration authorities can be a highly stressful experience. Under the United States Constitution, every individual—regardless of immigration status, citizenship, or nationality—possesses fundamental legal rights.

This emergency guide is designed in a scannable format to serve as an immediate, practical operational checklist. By understanding what to say, what to do, and what documents to demand, you can protect your legal positioning and prevent critical compliance mistakes if you are stopped at home, on the street, or in your workplace.

Important Notice: Exercising your legal rights calmly is your constitutional privilege, but it does not guarantee that authorities will not detain you. This guide serves as an educational safety resource and does not constitute formal legal representation. Gonzalez Law Offices charges for formal case evaluations, bond hearings, and removal defense strategy sessions.

The 4 Core Checklists for Emergency Protection

Section 1: Protocol for Rallies, Stops on the Street, or Public Spaces

If you are stopped by immigration agents (ICE) or police officers in a public setting, maintain composure and implement this immediate verbal checklist:

- **The Right to Remain Silent:** You have the absolute right to remain silent. You do not have to answer questions about your birthplace, citizenship, or how you entered the country.
- **State Your Right Explicitly:** If you choose to invoke your right, state clearly aloud: "I am choosing to remain silent and I wish to speak to an attorney."
- **Determine If You Are Free to Go:** Ask the officer directly: "Am I free to leave?" If the agent says yes, calmly and slowly walk away from the area.
- **Refuse Physical Consensual Searches:** If an officer attempts to search your pockets, bags, or belongings, state clearly: "I do not consent to this search." They may still perform a brief pat-down for weapons if they suspect a threat, but verbal non-consent protects your rights in court later.

Section 2: Safe Rules When Agents Arrive at Your Home

Immigration authorities frequently attempt to enter residential properties without meeting the strict legal criteria required for entry. Protect your home using these structural rules:

- **Keep the Door Closed:** Never open your door for immigration agents unless they can prove they have a valid warrant. Opening the door can legally be interpreted as giving them "consent" to enter.
- **Demand to See the Warrant:** Ask the agents to slide the official warrant face-up underneath the door or hold it flat against a window so you can read it fully.
- **Verify the Signature:** Look closely at the document. A valid warrant that permits entry into a private home must be a Judicial Search or Arrest Warrant signed by a court judge. An administrative warrant signed by an ICE supervisor (Form I-200 or Form I-205) does not grant legal authority to enter your home without your permission.
- **Document the Encounter:** If agents enter your home forcefully without a judicial warrant, do not physically resist. Instead, write down the agents' badge numbers, take detailed notes of what they say, and document the incident on video if it is safe to do so.



Section 3: Workplace Confrontations and Employment Protections

If federal immigration agents execute an enforcement sweep or raid at your place of employment, understanding operational protocol keeps you protected:

- **Do Not Run or Flee:** Running away from agents creates immediate reasonable suspicion and can give officers a legal justification to chase and detain you physically.
- **Maintain Workplace Composure:** Remain completely calm, stay at your designated workstation if possible, or move in an orderly line toward common areas if directed by supervisors.
- **Refuse to Answer Status Questions:** Just like on the street, you are not required to disclose your immigration status, country of birth, or passport history to any agent questioning you at work.
- **The Employer Warrant Rule:** Agents cannot search employee-only areas of a business without the explicit consent of the business owner or a valid judicial search warrant.

Section 4: Detention Protocol and Immediate Legal Action

If you are taken into custody or detained by immigration authorities, acting quickly and avoiding self-incrimination is vital to your defense:

- **Do Not Sign Unknown Documents:** Never sign any paperwork presented to you by ICE agents without an immigration attorney reviewing it first. Signing documents blindly can result in surrendering your right to a hearing before a judge through a "Voluntary Departure."
- **Ask for an Immigration Bond Assessment:** Request a formal bond evaluation immediately to determine if you can be released from custody while your case moves through the court system.
- **The Right to a Phone Call:** You have the right to make a phone call to secure legal counsel or notify your family of your exact detention location.
- **Prepare an Emergency Contact Plan:** Keep the telephone number of an experienced immigration attorney and a trusted family contact memorized or written down in your wallet at all times so you can launch a defense plan instantly.

Key Takeaways for Your Pocket

- **Never Carry Fraudulent Documents:** Presenting fake identification cards or lying about your legal identity to federal officers can result in immediate criminal charges and permanently ruin your future immigration options.
- **No Physical Resistance:** Never physically resist, obstruct, or lie to an officer. Assert your constitutional rights firmly, quietly, and politely.
- **Keep This Guide Handy:** Keep this emergency guide easily accessible in your wallet, pocket, or vehicle glove compartment so you can reference it instantly.



Need Personalized Guidance?

Navigating the complexities of detention, immigration questioning, and removal defense requires immediate, skilled legal intervention to safeguard your future. At Gonzalez Law Offices, we stand ready to aggressively defend our clients' rights, counter unlawful enforcement actions, and provide strategic protection through every stage of the immigration framework.

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