

Know Your Rights

Resources for when
interacting with law
enforcement and ICE.

CSEA
NEW YORK

One voice for many.



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It is important to be familiar with our rights when interacting with law enforcement, including ICE personnel. AFSCME, CSEA's international union, has highlighted key areas.

1. Right to Remain Silent

You have the right not to answer any questions, including questions about your family, birthplace, citizenship, how you entered the United States or immigration status. You have the right to say, "I choose to remain silent."

2. Signing Documents

You have the right not to sign any documents without first speaking with an attorney. Anything you say or sign could be used against you later in any legal proceeding, including removal proceedings.

3. Green Cards/Work Permits

If you have valid federal immigration documents, carry them with you. Never carry false documents or lie about your immigration status.

4. Demanding Warrants

If law enforcement agents come to your home, you have the right to deny them entry unless they have a warrant signed by a judge. You do not need to open the door to see the warrant. Law enforcement agents can slide warrants under the door or hold it in the window.

Warrants issued by ICE do not give immigration agents the right to enter your home unless you give them permission. ICE agents rarely have a judicial warrant and instead may show an immigration warrant, which usually refers to the Department of Homeland Security and are usually signed by immigration officers.

5. Video and Audio Recording

You have the right to document any interaction with law enforcement. Make sure you do so safely, advise officers of your intentions and do not obstruct their actions.

Visit cseany.org/ice-resources for more information.



This information is not meant to serve as legal advice, but AFSCME offers an Immigration Toolkit that provides guidance on navigating immigration enforcement. The toolkit is available in multiple languages online.

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