

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IN YOUR HOME

SAN MATEO COUNTY

United Way Hotline: 415-543-6767, M-F 5:30 AM-5:30 PM

This handout contains information on what to do if immigration agents come to your home for an immigration raid. A raid can be a dangerous and frightening situation, but you can protect yourself and your family during a raid.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What should I do if immigration agents knock on my door?

A: Do not open the door. Do not give the agents permission to come inside your home. If you have a red card, slide the card under the door to the agents. If you do not have a red card, keep the door closed. Move away from the door.

Q: What should I do if the immigration agents slide a piece of paper under the door?

A: Keep the door closed and move away from the door. Unless the immigration agents have a warrant signed by a judge with your name on it, they cannot force their way into your home.

Q: What should I do if the immigration agents come inside my home?

A: Hand them the red card (if you have it). Do not answer their questions. Tell them, "Please go away." Look for the names of the officers who enter your home. Try to remember what they look like and what they say.

Q: Do I have to answer the immigration agents' questions?

A: No. Do not answer their questions. You have the right to remain silent. Do not tell them if you have immigration papers or not.

Q: If I stay silent, can the government use that against me?

A: Maybe. But it is better to stay silent than to say something to the immigration agents. Anything you say to the immigration agents could be used against you or other people.

Q: Is it risky to hand an immigration agent a red card?

A: Probably not. It is better to hand them a red card and stay silent, than it is to answer the immigration agents' questions. The red card tells the agents that they cannot enter your home unless they have a warrant that is signed by a judge and that has your name on it.

The red card is not proof that you are an undocumented immigrant. The red card does not say anything about your immigration status.

Q: Should I sign any papers?

A: No. DO NOT SIGN ANY PAPERS, even if the immigration agents ask you to sign them. If you sign papers presented to you by immigration agents, you may permanently lose some very important legal rights. Ask to speak to a lawyer first.

Q: Do I have to show my immigration papers to the immigration agents?

A: No. You do not have to hand over your immigration papers or an identification card, even if the immigration agents ask you for them. DO NOT show any false documents to an immigration agent. Do not carry any false documents with you.

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Q: Should I run away from the immigration agents?

A: No. Do not run away. If you run away, the agents may have the evidence they need to arrest you. Try to stay calm.

Q: Do I have to give my name?

A: No. Do not give the immigration agents your name, unless you are under arrest. If you are afraid that giving your name will link you to a crime, you can remain silent.

Q: What if I am arrested?

A: You have the right to remain silent if you are arrested. Ask to speak to a lawyer before answering any questions. If you are arrested, you should give only your name, so that your family can find you.

Q: What happens if I decide not to remain silent?

A: If you end up speaking to an immigration agent or answering their questions, you can still do things to protect yourself and your legal rights.

- Remain calm.
- Do not sign any papers.
- Do not run away from the immigration agents.
- Call the hotline number: (415) 543-6767
- Ask to speak to an attorney.
- Try to remember details about what happened.

Remember, you did not lose your rights just because you answered the immigration agents' questions.