

# IMMIGRATION JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

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## **Know Your Rights Guidance for IJC Volunteers and Clients**

Given the outcome of the election, we anticipate current and former clients will have fears, questions, and concerns about what's to come with respect to their safety and immigration options in the U.S. and may reach out to you. In order to best equip you and your clients to protect themselves and their rights, we are providing the following "Know Your Rights" (KYR) guidance that we recommend distributing and explaining to your clients:

1. Be honest with your clients: Explain to them that it's likely that they will see more immigration enforcement in the upcoming years including in public spaces, such as places of employment, state and local courts, in traffic stops and at homes, among other community areas.
2. The incoming administration will target individuals with criminal records of any kind, likely even for minor offenses, as well as those with final orders of removal. Please remind your clients to take care in following all federal, state and local laws, and to share with you right away should they have any encounters with law enforcement for any reason, including arrests, citations, or court summons.
3. If your client is a lawful permanent resident, they should be advised to carry their green card with them at all times, even if the physical card is expired. Similarly, if your client has another permanent or temporary lawful status, they should be advised to carry proof of that status with them at all times.
4. If your client has a work permit or once they receive one, they should be advised to carry it with them at all times as proof of I.D.
5. If your client has already filed an application for relief either in court or with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, ensure your client has a copy of their receipt notice, or hearing notice, and that they carry it with them.
  - a. If your client has a pending asylum application, they should carry the USCIS receipt notice or proof of pending filing (date-stamped copy of I-589 from Immigration Court and next hearing notice). If your client was detained when

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their asylum application was filed, please be sure to provide them with a copy of their filing and any subsequent hearing notices upon release.

6. Provide your clients with [these helpful Know Your Rights flyers](#), which advise them of their rights in the event they are confronted by immigration officials in various settings. Those rights under the U.S. Constitution include the right to remain silent, to refuse entry to immigration officials without a valid warrant signed by a judge, to speak to a lawyer and to make a phone call, and to refuse to sign any paperwork without first speaking with a lawyer. Foldable cards with these rights can be printed in various languages [here](#).
7. Encourage your clients to make a family preparedness plan, in the event of ICE detention. It's recommended that clients have plans for emergency contacts, childcare, addressing medical needs and financial obligations, and gathering important documents.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to your IJC mentors or attend their weekly office hours, should you have any questions about this guidance or wish to discuss your client's matter.