



# IMMIGRATION PRIMER FOR ACTIVIST ALLIES

## *Key Points on Basic Rights*

- **ANY PERSON**, regardless of immigration status or citizenship, has these basic Constitutional protections:
  - Protection against unreasonable search & seizure (Fourth Amendment)
  - Right to privacy (Fifth Amendment)
- **PRIVATE SPACES** have a higher level of protection than public spaces:
  - A clinic or hospital lobby/waiting room is a public space; a patient room is a private space
  - An employer can designate a private employee space
  - An educational institution can designate a private space (e.g., a teacher's lounge)
- **A DWELLING** is *always* a private space. ICE personnel cannot enter a private space without a judicial warrant:
  - A judicial warrant is a document signed by a judge
  - Any person has the right to insist that a warrant be held up to a window or slid under a door for inspection before allowing entry
  - A household member can allow ICE entry; do NOT do this without a judicial warrant
- **IN PUBLIC** spaces, ICE must have either a judicial warrant OR an ICE warrant issued by Homeland Security to arrest and detain an individual.
  - If they do not have a warrant, they must have probable cause to believe an individual is removable from the US and is likely to escape before a warrant can be issued.
- **THE RIGHT** to remain silent is *yours*:
  - NO person is obligated to volunteer any information when questioned by ICE personnel
  - ANY person has the right to request and speak with an attorney in both public and private spaces. (Exceptions: U.S. entry point, e.g., airports, border control points)
- **IF YOU, AS AN IMMIGRANT ALLY**, encounter ICE personnel in the process of a raid:
  - Do NOT intervene. DOCUMENT WHAT IS HAPPENING.
  - Capture the events on your phone. *You have the right to take pictures and record video in public spaces. Be aware that ICE personnel may try to intimidate you.*
  - Ask ICE personnel for their badge info. If possible, record their name(s) and badge number(s). (See <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/protesters-rights#i-want-to-take-pictures-or-shoot-video-at-a-protest>)
  - Call the CASA Tip Line at 888-214-6016 (raid in progress)
  - Give out the AMICA hotline # for detainees only: 202-331-3329
  - Write down and share what you witnessed with CASA ASAP



## Key Resources on Rights

CASA of Maryland – Know Your Rights document (English & Spanish)

- <https://wearecasa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/KYR-New-V2.1English.pdf>
- <https://wearecasa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/KYR-New-V2.1Spanish.pdf>

National Immigration Law Center: <https://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2025.01.14-KYR-What-To-Do-If-Arrested-ENGLISH-Final-JAN.pdf>

ACLU:

- <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/icenotwelcome>
- <https://www.aclusocal.org/en/issues/immigrant-rights>
- [Know Your Rights: Video Series for Interacting with Immigration Agents | ACLU of Maine](#)

Local Immigration-Driven Orgs (any and all of whom can use our support)

- CASA: <https://wearecasa.org>
- Esperanza Center (Catholic Charities): <https://cc-md.org/programs/esperanza-center>
- Asylee Women Enterprise: <https://www.asyleewomen.org>
- ERICA (Episcopal Refugee & Immigrant Center): <https://erica-baltimore.org>
- World Relief Baltimore: <https://worldrelief.org/baltimore/>
- Centro del los Derechos del Migrante: <https://cdmigrante.org>
- Global Refuge: <https://www.globalrefuge.org>

City of Baltimore Resources – MIMA (Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs):  
<https://mima.baltimore.org/>

To order or print rights cards to distribute: <https://www.ilrc.org/red-cards-tarjetas-rojas#item-4476>