

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Important Information for Immigrants

We understand that the many recent changes made by the new administration are causing anxiety and uncertainty for noncitizens throughout the nation. We provide this important information to help you understand your rights and prepare for any encounters with immigration enforcement.

General Advice

If you encounter immigration or law enforcement officers, stay calm and speak politely, even if you feel you are being treated unfairly. Keep your hands where officers can always see them. If you need to reach for documents, tell the officer: “I am reaching for my documents.”

Clearly state your rights: “I am exercising my right to remain silent.” “I do not consent to a search of my home/vehicle/person.” “I want to speak with my attorney.” Do not provide any false information or false documents. Do not sign any documents without talking to your attorney.



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Carry Evidence of 2 Years of Presence in the United States

One of the many changes in immigration policy that is effective as of January 21, 2025, is the expansion of “expedited removal.”

Undocumented individuals who entered without inspection are at greater risk of being put into a rapid deportation process without the right to appear in front of an immigration judge or fight their case. The only exception is if the person can prove they have been in the United States continuously for at least 2 years, or if they say they are afraid to return to their country and later pass a fear screening interview, which might allow them to seek asylum. If you entered with inspection meaning a visa such as a tourist visa or student visa you are not subject to expedited order of removal.

Carry a copy of the I-94 or a picture of your entry stamp on your passport to prove this.

If you have been in the United States for at least 2 years, you should always carry evidence of this with you. You should carry paper copies and make sure a trusted family member or friend has paper copies. You should also have electronic copies available on your phone. Here are some examples of good evidence of physical presence:

- Diploma from a US school and/or official school transcripts
- mail you received at your home address
- a signed lease for your home or apartment, or utility bills referencing your name and US address
- church records with your address

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Do not carry foreign identification documents with you, such as a foreign passport or ID card, as these documents may be used against you.

Carry Evidence of Lawful Status

If you have a lawful entry to the United States or lawful status, always carry evidence of this with you. You can show a green card or a valid work permit as your ID.

If you have a pending immigration case, you can show a copy of your receipt notice if you have been arrested by ICE. Please note, however, that they may still detain you even if you have a pending case.

Reduce Your Chances of a Traffic Stop or Accident

If you are undocumented and you are traveling with a US citizen or lawful permanent resident who has a valid driver's license, you should not be driving. If you must drive, make sure your license is valid. Keep up with vehicle maintenance. Regularly check your headlights. Do not hang bulky items from your rear-view mirror.

Never drive if you have been drinking or taking any kind of narcotics. Drive safely and follow all traffic laws. Do not use your cell phone when you are driving.



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Know Your Rights in Different Situations

At home: Keep your doors locked. Do not open the door if an officer knocks. Do not answer any of their questions. You have the right to refuse entry to an officer unless they have a warrant signed by a **judge**. ICE only has “Warrant for Arrest of Alien” and these are administrative warrants that are not signed by a Judge or issued by a Court. You do not have to open the door for an administrative warrant. Only a judicial warrant allows entry into a home. See sample.

You have the right to remain silent. You should tell your family members they should also not allow officers into your home and should refuse to speak with officers.

On the street: If you are approached by law enforcement: you have the right to remain silent. You do not have to answer any questions, including questions about your home country or immigration status.

Stay calm and do not run. Running can be used as evidence against you and may lead to the use of force against you. Keep your hands visible and avoid sudden movements. Clearly state: “I am exercising my right to remain silent.” Do not provide false information or false documents. Do not carry evidence that you were born outside of the United States on your person.

In the car: During a traffic stop, remain polite and keep your hands visible on the steering wheel. Ask if the officer is a local police officer or from immigration (ICE/CBP). Immigration agents

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may identify themselves as police but they are not local law enforcement. If you are asked for identification and you are a US citizen or have lawful status, provide your driver's license, green card, or work permit. If you are undocumented, you have the right to remain silent and can say: "I do not wish to answer questions." Do not consent to any search of your vehicle. If they search your vehicle anyway, you should state, loudly so that others can hear, "Please stop searching my vehicle. I do not consent to this search."



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Make an Emergency Plan

Keep a file of important documents in a safe and accessible place: passport, ID, A number, medical records, important passwords, etc. Share the location of these documents with a trusted person. Memorize the phone numbers of important family members and your attorney in case your phone dies or you are detained.

Prepare your family: ensure childcare arrangements are clear and include signed authorization forms. If both primary caregivers to your children are undocumented, consult with a family law attorney to prepare paperwork to give a trusted family member or friend legal authority to care for your children if both parents are detained. Provide caregivers with detailed instructions on how to access necessary documents and important information such as medical providers and records, medication instructions, your children's schedules, etc.

Real ID

Real ID goes into effect on May 7, 2025. To board a plane or enter any federal facility including the USCIS buildings or immigration court, an unexpired employment authorization document, unexpired passport or enhanced driver's license may be required.



United States District Court



Name of a Court

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

In the Matter of the Search of
RESIDENCE OF LAZARO GONZALEZ, LOCATED AT
2319 N.W. 2ND STREET, MIAMI, MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY, FLORIDA

SEARCH WARRANT

CASE NUMBER:

TO: SIA Mary A. Rodriguez, U.S. Immig. & Natls. Service and any Authorized Officer of the United States

Affidavit(s) having been made before me by SIA Mary A. Rodriguez who has reason to believe that [] on the person of or [x] on the premises known as (name, description and/or location) THE RESIDENCE OF LAZARO GONZALEZ, LOCATED AT 2319 N.W. 2ND STREET, MIAMI, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA



Name and Address

in the SOUTHERN District of FLORIDA there is now concealed a certain person or property, namely (specify the person or property) THE PERSON OF ELIAN GONZALEZ, DATE OF BIRTH DECEMBER 3, 1993, A NATIVE AND CITIZEN OF CUBA.

I am satisfied (that the affidavit(s) and any record testimony establish probable cause to believe that the person or property so described is now concealed on the person or premises above-described and establish grounds for the issuance of this warrant.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to search on or before 5-1-02 (not to exceed 10 days) the person or place named (or for the person or property specified, serving this warrant and making the search (hereinafter specified) (at any time in the day or night as I find reasonable cause has been established) and if the person or property be found there to seize same, leaving a copy of this warrant and receipt for the person or property taken, and prepare a written inventory of the person or property seized and promptly return this inventory to U.S. Magistrate Judge as required by law.

21 APR 2002
U.S. Magistrate Judge

at Miami, Florida
Signature of Judicial Officer



Judge's Signature



Immigration and Customs Enforcement



Warrant of Removal/Deportation Pursuant to Section 217

File No. _____

To any Officer or Employee of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement:

Pursuant to Section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, an authorized officer of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement has ordered that

(Full Name of Alien)

who entered the United States at or near _____ on or about _____ is subject to removal/deportation from the United States, based upon a final order by:

- an Immigration Judge in exclusion, deportation, or removal proceedings
- a District Director or a District Director's designated Official
- the Board of Immigration Appeals
- a United States District or Magistrate Court Judge

be deported from the United States of America. I, the undersigned Officer of the United States, by virtue of the power and authority vested in the Attorney General under the laws of the United States and by his or direction, command you to take into custody and remove from the United States the above-named alien, pursuant to law, at the expense of appropriation "Salaries and Expense, Immigration and Naturalization Service, 2007", including the expenses of an attendant, if necessary.

(Signature of INS Official)
Field Office Director/Dallas, TX
(Title of Authorized Official)

(Date)

This is an administrative warrant, they cannot enter your home with this.