



- Know Your Rights
- Be Prepared
- Get Trusted Help
- Make Informed Choices

Knowing your rights, being prepared, and having the right plan for you and your family can help you respond to an immigration emergency. Use the information on this Pocket Card to make informed decisions.

#### Have Important Documents Ready:

Know which documents you will need in case of an emergency. Keep them handy in a safe place. Discuss them with your family and others responsible for them.

- Legal forms: Power of Attorney and Caregiver Authorization (Child Care).
- Immigration documents (“Green Card,” passport, applications, notices).
- Birth certificates, Driver License, ID card, Social Security card.
- Contact information of family members, friends, your attorney, consulate, school.
- Medical appointments, records, prescriptions, and doctor information.
- Car title, registration, spare key.
- Mortgage and rental contracts.
- Employment and business records.

[oia.lacounty.gov](http://oia.lacounty.gov)  
(800) 593-8222

### Immigration Family Emergency Preparedness Resources:

Having a good plan will help you and your family be better prepared to respond to immigration emergencies. An emergency plan includes assigning trusted people AND preparing the forms they will need to help you and your family.

Visit our website at [oia.lacounty.gov](http://oia.lacounty.gov) or call us at (800) 593-8222 to get these FREE forms and more information:

- Caregiver Authorization (Child Care):** Lets you to designate someone to enroll your children in school and get medical care for them from the school.
- Power of Attorney:** Gives a person you designate legal authority to act on your behalf in some situations, such as handling your finances.
- Health Care Directive:** Lets you assign a person you trust to make decisions for your children’s health in case you aren’t available.
- Immigration Rights Red Card:** You have certain rights and protections under the U.S. Constitution. The detachable RED CARD on the other side of this Pocket Card can help you protect your rights when immigration agents go to your home or job, or if they stop you on the street.
- Naturalization and Citizenship:** Get FREE forms, study guides, and information to become a citizen.

## Immigration Services Fraud

Dishonest immigration service providers (notarios, immigration consultants, etc.) often charge thousands of dollars for false promises, advice, and services that can harm you. Protect yourself! Avoid doing business with anyone who:

- Tells you they know “special” laws or have “connections” with important people that will help you win your case.
- Asks you to pay cash only and doesn’t give you receipts.
- Doesn’t give you a contract in English and your primary language that gives you at least 3 days to cancel it without charges.
- Asks you to put false information on an application, sign blank documents, or leave original documents with them.
- Doesn’t have a sign posted that:
  - Says they are not attorneys and can’t give you legal advice,
  - Shows information about their required \$100,000 bond and registration with the government, and
  - Lists their name and contact information.

### Report immigration fraud to us! We can help you:

- Get your money and documents back.
- Resolve your complaint.
- Investigate fraud committed against you for possible prosecution.
- Tell you how to avoid immigration fraud.
- Connect you with FREE legal aid organizations for advice and help with your immigration case.

## YOU HAVE RIGHTS:

- **RIGHT TO NOT OPEN YOUR DOOR** unless the immigration agent knocking has a warrant to enter that is signed by a judge or magistrate and has your name on it.
  - **RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT** and not answer questions from immigration agents.
  - **RIGHT NOT TO SIGN ANY PAPERS** without first talking to an attorney.
  - **RIGHT TO TALK TO AN ATTORNEY** at your own expense.
- **IF YOU ARE OUTSIDE YOUR HOME:** Ask the immigration agent if you are free to go. If they say yes, leave peacefully. If they say no, ask to call your attorney.
- **IF YOU ARE INSIDE YOUR HOME:** Give this Red Card to the immigration agent through the window or under the door.



## STATEMENT TO IMMIGRATION AGENT, POLICE, OR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

- I do not wish to speak with you, answer your questions, or sign or hand you any documents based on my 5th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution.
- I do not give you permission to enter or search my home based on my 4th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution unless you show me a warrant to enter that is signed by a judge or magistrate.
- I do not give you permission to search any of my belongings based on my 4th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution.
- I choose to exercise my constitutional rights.

## Help from the United States Citizenship Immigration Services (USCIS)

USCIS is the agency that processes and responds to all immigration petitions. Visit their website at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) for help, including:

- Status of your case.
- Free forms, information, study guides.
- Office locations and appointments.



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**East Los Angeles County Hall**  
4801 E. 3rd St., Los Angeles, CA 9022



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## Know Your Rights Workshops:

Visit us at [oia.lacounty.gov](http://oia.lacounty.gov) to find out about a Know Your Rights workshop near you where you can learn how to get free or low cost immigration legal assistance, help with immigration fraud, and services Los Angeles County has for you.

## Legal Resources and Self-Help

Only licensed attorneys or non-profit organizations that are accredited by the Federal government can give you legal advice about your immigration case.

- Organizations approved by the Federal government must have a visible sign posted in their office that tells you their accreditation information. Call (800)593-8222 or visit [oia.lacounty.gov](http://oia.lacounty.gov) for a list of approved organizations near you.
- Immigration attorneys must have a current license in order to practice immigration law. Before you do business with an attorney, always ask to see their license and verify it with the State Bar in the state that gave it to them. Check California-licensed attorneys with the California State Bar at [calbar.ca.gov](http://calbar.ca.gov).

## Self-Help Legal Access Centers

Los Angeles County funds several Self-Help Legal Access Centers throughout the County. Call (800) 593-8222 or visit [oia.lacounty.gov](http://oia.lacounty.gov) for a list of centers near you that can provide you guidance with issues such as child custody disputes, divorce, domestic violence, or eviction.

## Help for Small Business Owners:

The Department of Consumer and Business Affairs team provides resources to help you start, grow, and protect your small business. Call (800) 593-8222 or visit [dcba.lacounty.gov](http://dcba.lacounty.gov) for information and help.

## Help with Unpaid Wages:

The Department of Consumer and Business Affairs can help you with minimum wage disputes. Call (800) 593-8222 or visit [dcba.lacounty.gov](http://dcba.lacounty.gov) for information and help.