



— KNOW — YOUR — RIGHTS

YOUR RIGHTS ON THE STREET

First, always ask police officers or ICE, “Am I free to go?”
If they say yes, you have the right to remain silent and leave. If they say no, you are being detained for questioning and possible arrest.

When you are detained on the street by a police officer

If a police officer says that you are not free to go, say, “I am going to remain silent.” You have the right not to answer any of the officer’s questions. Ask to speak to a lawyer or hand the police officer your attorney’s card.

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In Pennsylvania, you do not have to give the police information, such as your name, address, ID, or immigration status. However, if you choose not to show ID or give your name, you may be detained for longer while police try to identify you. For this reason, if you are lawfully present in the United States, you may wish to show your ID or provide your name. But if you do not have lawful immigration status, showing your ID or providing your name may result in detention by immigration authorities.

When you are detained on the street by ICE

If ICE says that you are not free to go and asks about your immigration status, you do not have to answer their questions. To exercise your right to remain silent, say, “I am going to remain silent,” and say nothing else. But if you have lawful immigration status and ICE asks for proof of your status (like a green card), you must give it to them if you have it with you.

ICE cannot hold you unless they have reason to believe you are in the country without authorization or have violated an immigration-related criminal law. You do not need to help them figure out your status, and if you do and you are out of status you will likely be detained and put into deportation proceedings.