



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AND RESOURCES

FOR IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Regardless of your immigration status, the U.S. Constitution provides you with basic rights, including due process and equal protection rights. As an immigrant, refugee or asylum seeker, you have different rights to federal protection and services consistent with your immigration status in the U.S.

If you encounter an immigration or law enforcement officer, you can inform them of your rights:

- To remain silent and not answer questions.
- To contact an attorney immediately, if you are detained.
- To refuse to sign anything without advice from an attorney.

The Illinois TRUST Act (5 ILCS 805) restricts local law enforcement from collaborating with federal immigration enforcement agents to detain anyone without a judicial warrant.

You can find more information on how to protect yourself by contacting the National Immigrant Justice Center at: www.immigrantjustice.org, via phone at 312-660-1370, or via email at nijcild@heartlandalliance.org. You can also contact the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights at: www.icirr.org, via phone by calling the Family Support Network Hotline at 1-855-HELP-MY-FAMILY (1-855-435-7693).

The wrong immigration advice can hurt. Only licensed attorneys and DOJ (Department of Justice) accredited representatives should provide immigration legal advice.

Find the information on DOJ accredited representatives via:

<https://www.justice.gov/eoir/list-pro-bono-legal-service-providers>

Notary publics or notaries are not authorized or qualified to provide immigration legal advice.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Through state agencies and partnership with local government and nonprofits, Illinois provides many social and economic opportunities for immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers, including:

- Support to meet basic needs for food, shelter, medical assistance
- Education opportunities for children, youth and adults
- Employment and business development opportunities
- Civic engagement and naturalization opportunities

Your eligibility for federal and state services, and opportunities listed above, may be determined based on your immigration status.

You can contact state agencies directly for more information, or contact one of the agencies funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services to help immigrants, refugee or asylum seekers. These agencies have staff who can speak your language. You can find the list of agencies serving immigrants at the Illinois Department of Human Services website: www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=117419

INFORMATION ON STATE SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Department on Aging

- To receive help for aging adults, visit www2.illinois.gov/aging, call the Senior Helpline at (800) 252-8966 or email aging.ilsenior@illinois.gov.

Department of Children and Family Services

- To reach the Office of the DCFS Guardian for help with cases of guardianship, call (312) 814-8600. To report child abuse or neglect, call 800-25-ABUSE (800-252-2873).

Department of Employment Security

- To receive help in finding a job, you can visit www.ides.illinois.gov/Pages/EventsandWorkshops to find hiring events and workshops. You can also search for available jobs at www.IllinoisJobLink.com.

Department of Human Services

- To help you and your family meet your basic needs, such as food, cash and medical assistance. You can find more specific information at www.abe.illinois.gov or by calling the ABE Customer Call Center at (800) 843-6154.
- To learn more about your eligibility for assistance, based on your immigration status, visit www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=16628.

Department of Public Health

- To contact the Center for Minority Health Services for health related issues or concerns, call 217-785-4311 or email dph.cmhs.info@illinois.gov or visit www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/life-stages-populations/minority-health.

