



Raids FAQ

This information is a general guide. Many laws and law enforcement practices are different in different states. Please talk to a lawyer for more information about your options.

Can ICE raid my job site?

Yes, but ICE officers must have a warrant to enter private property or must be given permission to enter by the owner of the property. A warrant is an order from a judge that gives officers permission. The warrant must say which specific areas of the property it covers. Private property includes land, so even if you are outside, if the land you are working on belongs to your boss, ICE must have a warrant to enter. However, your boss may choose to give ICE permission to enter the property even if they do not have a warrant.

What if I live on my job site or my house is owned by my boss?

You do not have to agree to a search of your home. Before opening the door, ask if the officers have a warrant for entering your home and make sure that the warrant specifically mentions your home. Even if you live on your employer's property or your housing is provided as part of your work contract, you still have the right to decide who enters your home. Your boss cannot give an officer permission to enter your home without your agreement.

What should I do during a raid?

Try to stay calm and take note of important details, such as the location and time and the officers' names. DO NOT try to run away, show false documents or lie. This could lead to arrest or being charged with a crime. Also, DO NOT sign any documents without speaking to a lawyer first.

What documents should I show during a raid?

You should always carry with you and be prepared to show any valid and up-to-date documents showing your legal status and/or permission to work (for example, a green card or H-2A visa). You should also leave copies of these important documents in a safe place where family members or other trusted people know where to find them. DO NOT show officers any other foreign passports or documents. If you show an I.D. from another country, the officers might assume that you are here illegally.

What should I say to the officers?

You have the right to remain silent (not say anything) if you are questioned by an officer. The officers cannot force you to give up your rights or make a statement. Anything you say (other than your name) could later be used against you, especially information about where you were born or how you entered the U.S. You have the right to ask whether you are being detained (arrested). If you are being detained, you have the right to ask for a lawyer and do not have to answer any questions. If the officers say you are not being detained, you can slowly and calmly leave the worksite, if you are able to do so, and let others know about what happened, as well as the names of any people who were detained.