TRAVEL

Provide identifying passport information and travel itinerary to a family member or friend prior to any trips, and keep that individual updated once you have arrived.

Immigration officers have the authority to search bags at all ports of entry and to question travelers about their immigration status and travel itinerary.

ELECTRONICS:

Immigration officers cannot compel travelers to provide passwords for electronic devices. **U.S. citizens** cannot be denied entry to the U.S. for refusing to provide passwords or to unlock electronic devices. However, refusal to unlock electronic devices or provide passwords might lead to delay, lengthy questioning, and seizure of devices. For **noncitizens**, refusing to cooperate might also lead to officers denying your entry into the country. Consider disabling fingerprint Touch ID on your devices while traveling, since border officials can compel you to unlock your device using fingerprint instead of password. If an officer searches or confiscates your device, write down the officer’s name and get a receipt for your property.

IF YOU ARE A U.S. CITIZEN:

- You may decline to answer questions about your religious or political beliefs and cannot be denied entry into the U.S. for doing so. If questions become intrusive, you may request to see a supervisor.
- You have the right to speak to a lawyer. You should assert that right if you are subjected to prolonged questioning, even if CBP denies such request.

IF YOU ARE A GREEN CARD HOLDER:

- Contact an immigration attorney before traveling.
- You may decline to answer general questions about your religious or political beliefs, but doing so may lead to delay or additional questioning.
- You should always assert your right to speak to a lawyer, although CBP maintains that travelers who are being questioned do not have the right to a lawyer.
- You should not sign anything giving up your rights without speaking to a lawyer first.

IF YOU ARE A VISA HOLDER:

- Contact an immigration attorney before traveling.
- You may decline to answer questions about your religious and political beliefs, but doing so may lead to delay, additional questioning, or possible denial of your entry into the U.S.
- Generally, you do not have the right to speak to a lawyer before answering questions.
- If you are told you cannot enter the U.S. and you fear you might be persecuted or tortured if you are sent back to your home country, you may tell the officer about your fear and request asylum.
INTERACTION WITH IMMIGRATION OFFICERS

If you are approached by a law enforcement officer, ask for the officer’s identification. While in certain situations you are required to identify yourself to police officers, you are not required to identify yourself to immigration officers absent a warrant.

You have the right to remain silent. You have the right to speak to a lawyer.
- Don’t falsify claims to U.S. citizenship.
- Don’t say anything about where you were born or how you entered the U.S.
- Tell the agent that you wish to remain silent.

You have the right to refuse signing any papers without first talking to a lawyer.
- You should never sign any documents without fully reading and understanding the consequences. Some documents waive your rights, and allow immigration officers to deport you before you see a lawyer or a judge.

If you are a non-citizen and you have valid U.S. immigration status, you should carry your immigration document at all times (ex. – green card or work permit). It’s the law.
- If you have valid U.S. immigration documents and you are asked for them, it is generally recommended that you show the officer.
- Keep a copy of all U.S. and foreign government-issued documents in a safe place and make sure a family member or friend can get them if necessary. Apply for a replacement immediately if any of your documents are lost or expired.
- Never show an officer fake immigration documents or lie about your citizenship.
- Do not carry papers from another country with you (ex. – foreign passport or birth certificate).

If an immigration agent comes to your door, do not open your door unless the agent provides a signed warrant.
- Ask the officer to hold the warrant against a window or slide it under the door.
- You are only required to let the agent into your home if the warrant is issued by a court and signed by a judge. (An administrative warrant from immigration authorities is not the same.)
- The warrant must have your correct name and address on it.

It is best to consult with an immigration attorney before applying for any immigration benefit.