



Immigrants' Rights and Resource Guide

This document is intended for educational, civic, and advocacy purposes. This is not provided by our legal team, nor does anything in this document constitute legal advice. Please contact media@acluct.org with any questions.

What does immigration law in Connecticut look like?

First and foremost, **immigration law is complicated**. Our role is to provide you with the information that we have to ensure you know your rights as someone with an immigration status in Connecticut.

Nationally, the federal government regulates and enforces immigration law across states at the federal level. States can have laws that govern how immigrants navigate things in their state, but cannot explicitly regulate immigration through state law. For instance, Connecticut is one of few states that limits information-sharing and interactions that local and state law enforcement can have with immigration officials.

In Connecticut, we have **the Trust Act, a statute that regulates how state and local law enforcement interact with federal immigration authorities**. It limits the information that state and local law enforcement can share with federal immigration authorities and prohibits them from detaining someone for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), except under limited circumstances.

What is the Trust Act?

The Trust Act was originally passed in 2013, having been amended in 2019 and 2025 as a direct result of continued advocacy from immigration advocacy organizations across the state. It was designed for three main purposes:

1. **Protect due process rights and prevent unlawful detention,**
2. **Strengthen trust between immigrant communities and local law enforcement,** and
3. **Prevent ICE from using state and local police resources** to identify and deport undocumented people during everyday policing.

In its original form as passed in 2013, the Trust Act **prohibited state and local law enforcement from sharing information with federal immigration agents**, ensuring that ICE could not obtain such information to help identify and deport undocumented people while doing business in Connecticut.

With updates in 2019, the Trust Act was **strengthened with more protections added to its information sharing provisions**. These updates limited the instances in which state and local law enforcement could cooperate in arresting an undocumented person to if ICE has a judicial warrant per a federal request, if the person is convicted of a felony, or if the person is a suspected terrorist. In terms of sensitive personal data, with this update, state and local agencies cannot share information with ICE such as someone's release date or time, nonpublic information about a person's home or work address, probation or parole supervision, and more.

The Trust Act was updated once more in 2025, **creating a way to enforce the law in court and expanding who must follow it**. Also passed in 2025 was a series of other laws that impact how ICE operates in the state, banning courthouse arrests without warrants and prohibiting agents from wearing masks inside courthouses unless medically necessary.

Even today, **immigration advocates across the state continue to push for legislation that strengthens the Trust Act** as this work is far from over.



What are my rights as an immigrant in Connecticut?

Regardless of immigration status, people in the United States have fundamental constitutional rights. These rights include the right to remain silent, the right to due process, the right to speak with an attorney, protection from unlawful search and detention, and others.

Knowing these rights can help you protect yourself, your family, and your neighbors when interacting with law enforcement or immigration officials. Here are some scenarios where knowing your rights is critical:

- **What happens if I get stopped by ICE or law enforcement?**
 - If officials ask for your name, you must tell them. You do not have to answer any other questions.
 - You can ask if you are free to go. If the answer is yes, you may walk away calmly.
 - It is best not to lie or carry false documents with you.
- **What can I do if ICE comes to my home?**
 - You do not have to open the door.
 - You can ask the officials if they have a warrant. You can ask the officials to pass the warrant under the door.
 - You must confirm that the warrant has been signed by a judge or magistrate. Only a warrant signed by a judge or magistrate allows immigration officials to enter your home to search your home or make an arrest.
 - Remember that a warrant of removal/deportation (Form I-205) does not allow officers to enter a home without consent.
 - An arrest warrant will name the person they are looking for. If they only have an arrest warrant, you do not have to agree to let them search your home.
 - If the warrant is not signed by a judge or magistrate, you do not have to open the door or allow entry to your home.
 - You have the right to remain silent, even if the officer has a warrant.
 - If they enter your home anyway, you have the right to ask for the names and badge numbers of the officer and say you did not agree to the search.
 - If you are arrested, you can ask to speak with an attorney.
 - **NOTE:** *if immigration officials take items from your home, keep a record of what they took and ask for a record of the taken items from them.*
- **What can I do if ICE comes to my workplace?**
 - If they ask for your name, you must tell them, but don't have to answer other questions.
 - You can ask if you are free to go. If the answer is yes, you may walk away.
 - **NOTE:** *immigration does not need a warrant or permission to enter the public spaces of a business such as the dining room in a restaurant. They do need a warrant or permission to enter areas that are not open to the public, such as the kitchen in a restaurant.*
- **What are my rights if I am arrested?**
 - If they ask for your name, you must tell them. You don't have to answer other questions.
 - You have the right to remain silent. If you wish to exercise that right, say so out loud and ask for a lawyer right away.
 - You can ask to make a phone call and speak with your lawyer. Memorize the phone number of your lawyer or a family member or a trusted friend who is in the United States legally.
 - You do not have to give information or answer any questions about your immigration status.
 - You do not have to sign any documents.

Find more scenarios like these at <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/immigrants-rights>.

Know Your Rights Resources

- **ACLU National's Know Your Rights: Immigrants' Rights**
 - This includes info for being stopped by ICE or police, police asking about immigration status, police or ICE at home, needing a lawyer, being detained by Border Patrol, being stopped while in transit, being detained with an active immigration case, needing a deportation order challenge while arrested, and more.
 - ACLU National also has a clear and concise video explainer for what you should do if you're **stopped by ICE or police** as someone with an immigration status.
- **CT Students for a Dream Community Resources**
 - This includes items such as an **ICE Activity Report**, a **Detention Referral Form**, **Know-Before-You-Go's**, and much more.
- **CT Legal Services' One-Pager for Legal Assistance for Undocumented Minors in CT**
- **Hartford Deportation Defense Fund's Resource Guide Directory**
 - This is an expansive directory of resources including houselessness support, youth services, mental health resources, SA/DV resources, addiction recovery resources, legal aid, etc.
- **National Immigration Law Center's Know Your Rights**
 - This includes multilingual guides for employers if ICE comes to your workplace, students and teachers if ICE comes to your school, expedited removals, warrants and subpoenas, detainees, finding someone after arrest, arrests at airports, and much more.
 - NILC also has a **toolkit for organizations responding to mass worksite raids**
- **Immigration Legal Resource Center Community Resources**
 - This includes printable **Red Cards in over 50 languages**, and a **family preparedness plan and toolkit**.
- **Immigration Advocates Network National Legal Services Directory**
- **Mobilization for Justice Know Your Rights Guides**
 - For Interacting with **ICE in Public Spaces**
 - For Interacting with **ICE at Home**
 - For Interacting with **ICE in Courts**
- **Know Your Rights: Immigration in CT**
 - This was produced by CT Legal Services, Greater Hartford Legal Aid, NHLAA, and Statewide Legal Services of CT

Trusted Legal Aid Organizations in Connecticut

2-1-1 of Connecticut has more resources for immigrants [here](#).

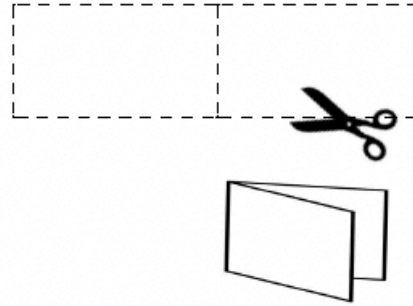
This page will be updated as more resources become available.

- **Greater Hartford Legal Aid**
 - <https://www.ghla.org/>
 - (860) 541-5000
- **Connecticut Legal Services**
 - <https://ctlegal.org/>
 - (860) 225-8678
- **New Haven Legal Assistance**
 - <https://nhlegal.org/>
 - (203) 946-4811
- **Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants**
 - <https://cirict.org/>
 - Bridgeport: (203) 336-0414
 - Stamford: (203) 965-7190
 - Hartford: (860) 692-3085
- **Apostle Immigrant Services**
 - <https://www.apostleimmigrantservices.org/>
 - (203) 752-9068
- **IRIS - Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services**
 - <https://irisct.org/>
 - (203) 562-2095
- **Building One Community**
 - <https://building1community.org/>
 - (203) 674-8585
- **Yale Law School's Legal Assistance: Immigrant Rights Clinic (IRC)**
 - <https://law.yale.edu/studying-law-yale/clinical-and-experiential-learning/our-clinics/legal-assistance-immigrant-rights-clinic>
- **University of Connecticut School of Law, Asylum and Human Rights Clinic**
 - <https://www.law.uconn.edu/academics/clinics-experiential-learning/asylum-human-rights-clinic>
 - (860) 570-5165
- **Immigration Advocates Network**
 - <http://www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory>
- **American Immigration Lawyers Association**
 - <https://www.aila.org/>
 - 1 (800) 954-0254

Red Card Cut-Outs (ENGLISH)

To print at home, use heavy weight paper, or card stock. Cut out the cards along the dotted lines. If you're unable to print on both sides, you can simply fold on the center line to make a 2-sided card.

If you use a professional printer, we suggest you print 2-sided cards with white text on red card stock with rounded corners.



You have constitutional rights:

- **DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR** if an immigration agent is knocking on the door.
- **DO NOT ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS** from an immigration agent if they try to talk to you. You have the right to remain silent.
- **DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING** without first speaking to a lawyer. You have the right to speak with a lawyer.
- If you are outside of your home, ask the agent if you are free to leave and if they say yes, leave calmly.
- **GIVE THIS CARD TO THE AGENT.** If you are inside of your home, show the card through the window or slide it under the door.

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 my home based on my 4th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution unless you have a warrant to enter, signed by a judge or magistrate with my name on it that you slide under the door.

I do not give you permission to search any of my belongings based on my 4th Amendment rights.

I choose to exercise my constitutional rights.

These cards are available to citizens and noncitizens alike.

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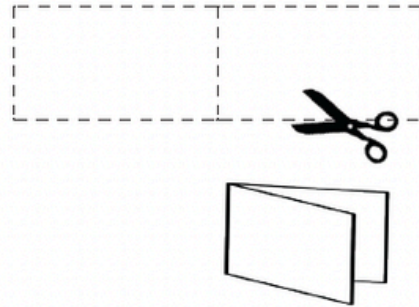
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Red Card Cut-Outs (SPANISH)

Para imprimir en casa, utilice papel grueso o cartulina. Recorta las tarjetas por las líneas de puntos. Si no puede imprimir en ambas caras, simplemente puede doblar por la línea central para hacer una tarjeta de dos caras.

Si utiliza una impresora profesional, le sugerimos que imprima tarjetas de 2 caras con texto blanco en cartulina roja con esquinas redondeadas.



Usted tiene derechos constitucionales:

- **NO ABRA LA PUERTA** si un agente de inmigración está tocando la puerta.
- **NO CONTESTE NINGUNA PREGUNTA** de un agente de inmigración si el trata de hablar con usted. Usted tiene el derecho de mantenerse callado.
- **NO FIRME NADA** sin antes hablar con un abogado. Usted tiene el derecho de hablar con un abogado.
- Si usted está afuera de su casa, pregunte al agente si es libre para irse y si dice que sí, váyase con tranquilidad.
- **ENTREGUE ESTA TARJETA AL AGENTE.** Si usted está dentro de su casa, muestre la tarjeta por la ventana o pásela debajo de la puerta.

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