



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS

All people in the United States, *including undocumented immigrants*, have Constitutional rights and protections. Neither immigration nor the police will assume you want to exercise your rights. You are in charge of asserting them by showing your Know Your Rights card or by telling the officer you are exercising your rights.

If you have been put in removal proceedings, you have rights that protect you.

You must be given a copy of your Notice to Appear (NTA).

An NTA is the document that starts your removal proceedings and tells you why immigration believes you should be removed from the U.S. Be sure to review the NTA with a legal representative.

You have the right to fight your case and have a trial.

If you recently entered the U.S. near the border or you have been deported before, immigration may try to deport you without a hearing or a legal representative. Generally, though, unless you miss a hearing, the government cannot deport you without first giving you a trial (called an individual hearing) where you have the opportunity to fight for permission to stay in the U.S.

You must be given a Hearing Notice for each scheduled hearing.

The Hearing Notice lists the date, time, and place of your scheduled hearings. You can also check for scheduled hearings through the hotline. To use the hotline, you must have your immigration ("A") number. Call 1-800-898-7180 or go to acis.eoir.justice.gov/en.

You can be deported if you miss your hearing.

If you are not in court for a scheduled hearing, the judge will likely sign an order of deportation. With limited exceptions, this means you lose your case without a second chance to fight it.

You have the right to legal representation.

You can have a legal representative with you at all immigration hearings. The government will not provide you with free representation. If you do not have a representative, ask for a list of free or low-cost legal services and ask the judge for time to find one. A representative can help show that your reason for being here is a valid defense to being deported under U.S. law.

Note: In the U.S., notaries are not authorized to practice immigration law – only attorneys and accredited representatives. **Beware of anyone engaging in unauthorized practice of law!** You have a right to ask the person willing to help you if they are an attorney or fully accredited representative with authorization to practice law and go to immigration court with you.

You must be provided with an interpreter in a language you speak and understand fluently.

It is very important that you understand what is said in court, so if you have a hard time understanding the interpreter, you should tell the judge that.

You have the right to ask for voluntary departure.

You may do this if you do not want to fight your case. You are responsible for buying your ticket home and leaving within 60 days after the judge's order. Talk to a legal representative about the consequences of voluntary departure and deportation.

You have the right to appeal.

Generally, if a judge issues an order you disagree with, you can ask it to be reviewed by a higher authority. Consult a legal representative about deadlines and legal authority for an appeal.