

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

## LAW ENFORCEMENT ENCOUNTERS

Law enforcement from the FBI, police, or other agencies approach people at home, in places of worship, at the workplace, and elsewhere to collect information on individuals, communities, and movements. **You are not legally obligated to submit to questioning.**

This information sheet shares strategies to help you protect yourself, your community, and your movement if law enforcement approaches you for questioning.



### GOLDEN RULES:

- (1) DO NOT ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS WITHOUT A LAWYER.**
- (2) DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR.**
- (3) DO NOT AGREE TO A SEARCH.**

**BE PREPARED TO ASSERT YOUR RIGHTS REPEATEDLY, IF THE AGENT OR COP PERSISTS.**

You can use these rules at any time during an encounter, even if you already started answering questions or agreed to a search. These rules apply whether it is the FBI, ICE, state or local police, or any other law enforcement agency in the United States.

### GOLDEN RULE: (1) DO NOT ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS WITHOUT A LAWYER.

You always have the right to decline. Exercise your right to refuse to answer any questions no matter what the agent or police officer says or does. You have this right regardless of your immigration status. It is safest not to speak to law enforcement until you have an attorney with you because anything you say can be used against you or others.

**SAY: "I WILL NOT ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS WITHOUT MY LAWYER."**

### GOLDEN RULE: (2) DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR.

If you are at home or elsewhere behind a door and law enforcement knocks, do not open the door because that can expose you and others in your home and make it more difficult to refuse a search or end the encounter. Do not invite or let them in.

**SAY: "CAN I PLEASE SEE YOUR ID AND BUSINESS CARD?"**

and ask them to slip it under the door or leave it outside, so that CLEAR (or other lawyers you trust) can follow up with them later.

### GOLDEN RULE: (3) DO NOT AGREE TO A SEARCH.

If an agent or officer asks you for permission to look inside or search your bag, home, car, glove compartment, or trunk, you should refuse. They may try to gain your consent to a search by asking "May I come in?" or even saying "Let me have a look" or "Open your trunk." You can and should say no.

If they search anyway, take note of any potential witnesses and

**SAY: "I DO NOT AGREE TO THIS SEARCH."**

Never resist physically. That only empowers law enforcement over you.

**After the encounter, whenever it is safe to do so, jot down the details you remember from the encounter and contact CLEAR.**



### WHAT IF I AM ASKED TO COME IN FOR AN "INTERVIEW"?

Law enforcement agents sometimes ask or tell people to come in for an interview. They might even set a particular date to give the impression that it is mandatory. You do not have to go or speak with them, and it is very risky to do so without a lawyer. Ask for a business card or their contact information and **SAY: "MY ATTORNEY WILL CONTACT YOU."**



### CAN I RECORD/FILM?

You have the right to record law enforcement officers performing official duties while in public, so long as you do not interfere with their operations. Always proceed with caution for your own safety, especially when quickly taking out your phone. Sudden movements around officers could lead them to overreact, so always use your judgment about what is safe for you.