

A photograph of three police officers in riot gear, including helmets with face shields and carrying batons, standing in a line. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The background shows a brick building on the left and trees on the right under a clear sky.

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

When Interacting with Police or ICE

**ACLU**  
Kentucky

## HOW TO REDUCE RISK TO YOURSELF

- Stay calm. Do not resist or obstruct the agents or officers.
- Do not lie or give false documents.
- Prepare yourself and your family in case you are arrested. Memorize phone numbers of your family and your lawyer. Make emergency plans if you have children or take medication.

## YOUR RIGHTS

- You have the right to remain silent and can say so.
- You do not have to allow a search of yourself or your belongings, but police may pat down your clothing **if they suspect a weapon.**
- If you are arrested by police, **you have the right to a government-appointed lawyer.**
- If you are detained by ICE, you have the right to consult with a lawyer, but **the government is not required to provide** one for you. **You can ask for a list of free or low-cost alternatives.**
- You do not have to answer questions about where you were born, whether you are a U.S. citizen, or how you entered the country.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE ARRESTED OR DETAINED

- Ask for a lawyer immediately. Don't say anything, sign anything, or make any decisions without a lawyer.
- If you have been arrested by police, you have the right to make a local phone call. The police cannot listen if you call a lawyer.
- If you have been detained by ICE, you have the right to contact your consulate or have an officer inform the consulate of your detention.
- Remember your immigration number ("A" number) and give it to your family. It will help family members locate you.
- Give someone you trust a copy of your immigration documents.
- **If you are a non-citizen:** Ask your lawyer about the effect of a criminal conviction or plea on your immigration status. Don't discuss your immigration status with anyone but your lawyer. While you are in jail, an immigration agent may visit you. Do not answer questions or sign anything before talking to a lawyer. Read all papers fully. If you do not understand or cannot read the papers, ask for an interpreter.