

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

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WHEN ENCOUNTERING
LAW ENFORCEMENT



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This booklet addresses what rights you have when you are stopped, questioned, arrested, or searched by law enforcement officers. This booklet is for citizens and non-citizens with extra information for non-citizens in a separate section. Another section covers what can happen to you at airports and other points of entry into the United States. The last section discusses concerns you may have related to your charitable contributions and religious or political beliefs.

This booklet tells you about your basic rights. It is not a substitute for legal advice. You should contact an attorney if you have been arrested or believe that your rights have been violated.

VI. CHARITABLE DONATIONS AND RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

Q: Can I give to a charity organization without becoming a terror suspect?

A: Yes. You should continue to give money to the causes you believe in, but you should be careful in choosing which charities to support. For helpful tips, see Muslim Advocates' guide on charitable giving—

<http://www.muslimadvocates.org/docs/Donor-Guidance101106.pdf>.

Q: Is it safe for me to practice my religion in religious institutions or public places?

A: Yes. Worshipping as you want is your constitutional right. You have the right to go to a place of worship, attend and hear sermons and religious lectures, participate in community activities, and pray in public. While there have been news stories recently about people being unfairly singled out for doing these things, the law is on your side to protect you.

Q: What else can I do to be prepared?

A: You should keep informed about issues that matter to you by going to the library, reading the news, surfing the internet, and speaking out about what is important to you. In case of emergency, you should have a family plan—the number of a good friend or relative that anyone in the family can call if they need help, as well as the number of an attorney. If you are a non-citizen, remember to carry your immigration documents with you.

REFERRAL CONTACT INFORMATION

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC):
(202) 244-2990
<http://www.adc.org/>

American Immigration Law Foundation (AILF):
(202) 742-5600
<http://www.ailf.org/>

American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA):
(800) 954-0254
<http://www.aila.org/>

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF):
(212) 966-5932
<https://www.aaldef.org/>

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR):
(202) 488-8787
<http://www.cair.com/>

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF):
(213) 629-2512
<http://www.maldef.org/>

National Lawyers Guild (NLG):
(212) 679-5100
<http://www.nlg.org/>

National Immigration Law Center (NILC):
(213) 639-3900
<http://www.nilc.org/>

NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund (NAACP LDF):
(212) 965-2200
<http://www.naacpldf.org/>

National Immigration Project:
(617) 227-9727
<http://www.nationalimmigrationproject.org/>

Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (PRLDEF):
(800) 328-2322
<http://www.prldef.org/>

South Asian American Leaders of Tomorrow (SAALT):
(310) 270-1855
<http://www.saalt.org/>

U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (UCCR):
(800) 552-6843
<http://www.usccr.gov/>

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