



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GUIDE:

PROTECTING YOUR LEGAL STATUS & RIGHTS IN MINNESOTA

Ver. 1/23/26

For international students, maintaining legal status and being prepared for interactions with law enforcement requires specific procedural steps. According to the sources, you should follow this guidance to protect your SEVIS record and exercise your constitutional rights.



1. Maintain Your Legal Status

- Enrollment:** You must maintain full-time enrollment at all times to protect your SEVIS record.
- Employment:** Never work off-campus unless you have received explicit CPT/OPT authorization.
- School Contact:** Save the contact information for your Designated School Official (DSO) in your phone under the name "Emergency School" so it is easily accessible.

2. Manage Your Documentation

- Organize Records:** Keep copies of your passport, visa, and I-94 records in a safe place.
- Update Promptly:** Ensure you update expired documents immediately, including your visa, immigration filings, and driver's license.
- Carry Proof of Status:** You should carry a copy of your legal immigration status documents with you at all times (e.g., a copy of your passport or a receipt of application if one is pending).
- Evidence of Presence:** Maintain evidence of your physical presence and lawful status in the United States.

3. Establish an Emergency Plan

- Personal Emergency Plan:** Create a formal plan that includes your A-Number (if applicable), the name and number of your immigration attorney or a legal aid organization, and a family emergency contact.
- Memorize Information:** Memorize important phone numbers and the location of your original documents (like your passport) so you can direct a family member or friend to them if you are detained.
- Locating Services:** Ensure your family knows how to use the ICE detainee locator system using your A-Number or your full name, country of birth, and date of birth.

4. Know Your Rights During Law Enforcement Encounters

- Right to Remain Silent:** You have the constitutional right to remain silent. You can clearly state: "I am exercising my right to remain silent". Note: As a non-immigrant visa holder, you should consult with an immigration lawyer regarding certain legal exceptions to this right.
- Right to Refuse Search:** You may refuse a search of your person, your car, or your home if the officers do not have a judicial warrant signed by a judge or magistrate.
- Do Not Sign Documents:** Do not sign any documents that you do not fully understand. You have the right to say, "I want to consult with a lawyer before I sign this".
- Behavioral Advice:** If stopped by ICE or police, stay calm, do not argue or resist, and keep your hands visible at all times.

5. Legal Resources in Minnesota

If you need assistance or if your rights are violated, the sources suggest contacting the following organizations:

- Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM):** Provides legal representation and advice.
- ACLU of Minnesota:** For documenting incidents or filing complaints regarding rights violations.
- Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid:** 877-696-6529.

Disclaimer: This information is for educational purposes and not legal advice. Consult an immigration attorney for specific situations.





LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT GUIDE: PROTECTING YOUR STATUS, RIGHTS & SAFETY

Ver. 1/23/26

1. Documentation and Status Maintenance

- **Carry Proof of Status:** Carry a copy of your Green Card at all times. Keep the original safe.

- **Establish Residency Tenure:** If in U.S. > 2 years, carry evidence (e.g., utility bill) for potential added legal protections.

- **Avoid Travel Risks:** Do not stay outside the U.S. for more than 6 months to avoid status risk.

- **Update Records:** Promptly update expired documents (driver's license, immigration filings).

2. Emergency Preparedness

- **Memorize Your A-Number:** 9-digit A-Number on Green Card. Memorize it and share with family.

- **Create a Family Safety Plan:** Include emergency contacts, childcare, power of attorney.

- **Secure Document Storage:** Tell family exact location of original passports, birth certificates, financial info.

- **Attorney Verification:** Use Minnesota Attorney Look Up (<https://mars.courts.state.mn.us/>) to verify license before hiring.

3. Interactions with Law Enforcement or ICE

- **Exercise Your Rights:** Constitutional right to remain silent. Clearly state: "I am exercising my right to remain silent".

- **Manage Warrants:** Do not open door without a judicial warrant signed by a judge/magistrate naming your address. Administrative ICE warrants do not grant entry consent.

- **Refuse Unlawful Searches:** You may refuse a search of yourself, your car, or your home without a warrant.

- **Behavioral Advice:** Stay calm, keep hands visible, do not lie or provide false documents.

4. Actions if Detained

- **Do Not Sign Documents:** Never sign anything you don't understand. Say: "I want to consult with a lawyer before I sign this".

- **Request Information:** Ask for your A-Number and the name of the detention facility.

- **Location Services:** Family can find you via ICE Detainee Locator (<https://locator.ice.gov/>) using A-Number and country of birth.

5. Important URLs and Phone Numbers

- **Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM):** www.ilcm.org

- **Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid:** 877-696-6529 | www.mylegalaid.org

- **National Immigration Law Center:** (213) 639-3900 | www.nilc.org

- **ACLU of Minnesota (Legal Assistance):** www.aclu-mn.org/en/request-assistance

- **ACLU Rights Complaint Form:** <https://intake.aclu-mn.org/>

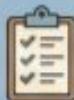
- **Monarch MN (Rapid Response):** <https://monarcamn.org/>

- **Midwest Immigration Bond Fund:** Provides assistance with bond payments for MN residents as funds allow.

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IMMIGRANT WORKER GUIDE: PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS & SAFETY IN MINNESOTA

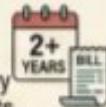


1. Documentation and Preparedness

- **Carry Proof of Status**
Always carry copy of legal documents (EAD, Passport/Visa, H-1B original approval notice/I-797). If pending, carry previous I-94/I-797 & receipt notice.



- **Evidence of Presence**
If in U.S. >2 years, carry evidence (e.g., phone bill, utility record) for potential legal rights.



- **Establish a Family Safety Plan**
Ensure family has 9-digit A-Number, location of original documents. Memorize important phone numbers.



- **Verify Legal Help**
Check attorney license via Minnesota Attorney Look Up (<https://mars.courts.state.mn.us/>) to avoid scams.



2. Your Rights During Workplace Encounters

- **Public vs. Private Spaces**
ICE can enter public areas (lobbies) but NOT private 'employees only' areas (back offices) without judicial warrant or consent.



- **Verify Warrants**
Judicial warrant signed by judge/magistrate names your address. Administrative ICE/DHS warrants do NOT grant private entry consent.



- **Right to Remain Silent**
Constitutional right. Clearly state: "I am exercising my right to remain silent". (Non-immigrant visa holders should consult lawyer).



- **Right to Record**
Record ICE actions in public spaces if not physically interfering.



3. Procedures if Arrested or Detained

- **Ask to Leave**
If stopped, ask, "Am I free to leave?". If yes, walk away.



- **Do Not Sign Documents**
Never sign without understanding. State: "I want to consult with a lawyer before I sign this".



- **Request Information**
Ask officer for your A-Number and detention facility name. Request list of free/pro bono lawyers.



- **Location Services**
Family can locate you via ICE Detainee Locator (<https://locator.ice.dhs.gov/>) using A-Number and country of birth.



4. Important Contacts and Resources



Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM)
Free legal representation. www.ilcm.org



Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid
877-696-6529 | www.mylegalaid.org



National Immigration Law Center (NILC)
(213) 639-3900 | www.nilc.org



ACLU of Minnesota
Request Assistance: www.aclu-mn.org/en/request-assistance | Complaint Form: <https://intake.aclu-mn.org/>



Monarca MN (Rapid Response)
Reporting ICE presence. <https://monarcamn.org/>



Midwest Immigration Bond Fund
Assistance with bond payments for MN residents.



U.S. CITIZEN'S GUIDE: PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS & SAFETY IN MINNESOTA

Ver. 1/23/26

For U.S. citizens, procedural safety involves understanding that while you cannot be deported, you can still be detained by ICE or police, often due to "mistaken identity" or "out of status" assumptions. The following procedures are recommended to protect your rights and support your community.



1. Documentation and Identification

- **Prevent Mistaken Identity:** Always carry clear identification to prevent being held in a "mistaken identity" hold.
- **Carry Proof of Citizenship:** Recommended to carry copy of passport, naturalization certificate, or birth certificate.
- **Use a Passport Card:** To avoid carrying bulky passport book, carry wallet-size Passport Card.
- **Verify Legal Help:** If hiring a lawyer, check license through Minnesota Attorney Look Up: <https://mars.courts.state.mn.us/>.



2. Interactions with ICE or Police

- **Ask to Leave:** If stopped, you have the right to ask, "Am I free to leave?". If yes, walk away calmly.
- **Right to Remain Silent:** Not required to discuss citizenship. Clearly state: "I am exercising my right to remain silent".
- **Home Encounters:** Do not open door for ICE/police without a judicial warrant. Administrative warrants do NOT grant entry.
- **Refuse Searches:** You have the right to refuse a search of your person, car, or home without a warrant.



3. Role as a Witness (Recording Actions)

- **Primary Role:** As a citizen, your role is to witness and record if it is safe.
- **Right to Record:** Constitutional right to film police/ICE in public spaces (e.g., streets, stores).
- **Avoid Interference:** Do not physically interfere with law enforcement. Obstructing is a federal crime.



4. Emergency Preparedness



- **Family Safety Plan:** Regardless of status, every family should have a plan (emergency contacts, childcare, power of attorney).
- **Secure Storage:** Keep original legal documents in a safe place and ensure family knows location.
- **Memorize Contacts:** Memorize phone numbers of family and trusted attorney.



5. Important Resources and Contacts



• Legal and Rights Support:

- **ACLU of Minnesota:** Request assistance/file complaint. www.aclu-mn.org/en/request-assistance | **Complaint Form:** <https://intake.aclu-mn.org/>
- **Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid:** 877-696-6529 | www.mylegalaid.org
- **Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM):** www.ilcm.org
- **National Immigration Law Center (NILC):** (213) 639-3900 | www.nilc.org

• Community Support:

- **Monarca MN (Rapid Response):** Report ICE presence. <https://monarcamn.org/>
- **Stand With Minnesota (Community Directory):** <https://www.standwithminnesota.com/>
- **ICE Detainee Locator:** Find detained community members. <https://locator.ice.gov/>

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BUSINESS OWNER'S GUIDE: PROTECTING YOUR WORKPLACE & EMPLOYEES IN MINNESOTA

Ver. 1/23/26



1. PROACTIVE PREPARATION



Train Your Staff: Educate employees to stay calm, do not run, and ask for a warrant if approached by ICE or police.



Establish Private Zones: Clearly post "Private Property" or "Employees Only" signs on office and kitchen doors. ICE agents generally have the authority to be in public spaces like parking lots or lobbies without permission, but they cannot enter private areas without consent or a judicial warrant.



Organize Records: Keep all I-9 forms stored in a separate folder.



Identify Legal Support: Use the Minnesota Attorney Look Up (<https://mars.courts.state.mn.us/>) to verify the credentials of any legal counsel you intend to hire.



2. MANAGING AN ICE ENCOUNTER AT THE WORKPLACE



Verify the Agent's Identity: You have the right to ask for a badge or identification to confirm they are actual federal agents.



Distinguish Between Warrants:

- **Judicial Warrant (Valid for Entry):** Must be signed by a judge or magistrate and specifically name your business address.
- **Administrative Warrant (Invalid for Entry):** Often signed by an ICE or DHS official. This does not grant agents the right to enter private offices, kitchens, or back rooms without your consent.



Exercise Your Right to Deny Entry: If agents do not have a judicial warrant, a manager or owner can deny them permission to enter private "back of house" areas.



Communicate Rights: Remind staff that everyone has the right to remain silent and does not have to answer questions about their immigration status or where they were born.



Ask Them to Leave: While you cannot physically force agents to leave, you can ask them to do so; however, they may choose to remain in public areas of the business.



3. DOCUMENTING THE INCIDENT



Record the Action: You or your staff may film or take photos of ICE actions in public spaces, provided you do not physically interfere with their work.



Avoid Interference: Do not block agents' paths or prevent them from driving. Doing so can lead to federal charges for obstructing justice.



Report Presence: Use the Monarca MN rapid-response hotline to report ICE activity in the community.



4. IMPORTANT RESOURCES AND CONTACTS



Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM): Provides legal representation for low-income individuals. | www.ilcm.org



Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid: 877-696-6529 | www.mylegalaid.org



National Immigration Law Center (NILC): (213) 639-3900 | www.nilc.org



ACLU of Minnesota: To document violations or request assistance. | www.aclu-mn.org/en/request-assistance

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REFUGEE GUIDE: PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS & SAFETY IN MINNESOTA

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For refugees, maintaining legal security and being prepared for encounters with federal agents requires specific procedural steps. While refugees have specific legal standing, they are also guaranteed the same fundamental constitutional rights as all people in the U.S., regardless of their citizenship status.

1. Documentation and Status Management



- **Carry Proof of Status:** Always carry a copy of legal documents (e.g., EAD, asylum receipt).
- **Evidence of Residency:** If in U.S. >2 years, carry evidence (e.g., phone bill, utility record) for potential additional rights.
- **Update Promptly:** Update expired documents (driver's license, work permits, immigration filings).
- **Secure Originals:** Keep original passport, birth certificates, and refugee papers in a safe place at home.



2. Establish a Family Emergency Plan



- **Memorize Your A-Number:** Critical 9-digit immigration number for family to use ICE Detainee Locator.
- **Organize Legal Files:** Tell family exactly where important documents are stored.
- **Designate Contacts:** Plan emergency contacts, childcare, power of attorney.
- **Memorize Numbers:** Memorize family and trusted attorney phone numbers.



3. Know Your Rights During Encounters



- **Right to Remain Silent:** You do not have to discuss status. Clearly state: "I am exercising my right to remain silent".
- **Do Not Open the Door:** Without a judicial warrant signed by a judge/magistrate, do not open. Administrative warrants are not sufficient.
- **Refuse Searches:** Right to refuse search of person, car, or home without a warrant.
- **Do Not Sign Anything:** Never sign if you don't understand. Say: "I want to consult with a lawyer before I sign this".
- **Request Information:** If detained, ask for your A-Number and detention facility name.



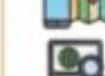
4. Refugee-Specific Resources



- **Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM):** Free immigration legal representation. | www.ilcm.org
- **CAPI USA:** Supports material needs like food and housing. | <https://capiusa.org/>
- **Neighborhood House:** Community-grounded support in St. Paul for over 128 years. | <https://www.neighb.org/>
- **ICOM (Immigrant Communities of Minnesota):** Grassroots organization supporting immigrants and refugees. | <https://www.icom-mn.org/>



5. Important Phone Numbers and URLs



- **Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid:** 877-696-6529 | www.mylegalaid.org

- **National Immigration Law Center (NILC):** (213) 639-3900 | www.nilc.org

- **ICE Detainee Locator:** <https://locator.ice.gov/>

- **ACLU of Minnesota (Rights Violation Intake):** <https://intake.aclu-mn.org/>

- **Minnesota Attorney Look Up:** <https://mars.courts.state.mn.us/>



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U & T VISA HOLDER GUIDE:

PROTECTING YOUR STATUS, RIGHTS & SAFETY IN MINNESOTA

Ver. 1/23/26



1. MANAGE YOUR DOCUMENTATION

Carry Proof of Status: Carry your EAD/work permit at all times. If pending, carry receipt.

Originals vs. Copies: Keep originals safe at home; carry clear copies to avoid loss.

Proof of Residence: If in U.S. >2 years, carry evidence (e.g., phone bill) for potential right to court hearing.

Update Records: Promptly update expired documents (visa, immigration filings, driver's license).

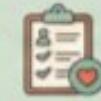
Individuals holding U Visas (for crime victims) or T Visas (for human trafficking victims) have specific legal protections. Follow this advice to maintain your safety and legal standing.



2. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



Memorize Your A-Number: Critical 9-digit number. Memorize it and share with family for ICE Locator.



Create a Family Safety Plan: Include emergency contacts, childcare arrangements, power of attorney.



Verify Legal Counsel: Check attorney license via Minnesota Attorney Look Up (<https://mars.courts.state.mn.us/>) to avoid scams.



3. ENCOUNTERS WITH ICE OR LAW ENFORCEMENT



Exercise Silence: Constitutional right. Clearly state: "I am exercising my right to remain silent".



Home Protection: Do not open door without a judicial warrant signed by a judge/magistrate. Administrative warrants do not grant entry.



Workplace Rights: Agents cannot enter private "employees only" areas without judicial warrant or owner's permission.



Refuse Searches: Right to refuse search of person, car, or home without a warrant.



4. PROCEDURES IF DETAINED



Do Not Sign Documents: Never sign if you don't understand. Say: "I want to consult with a lawyer before I sign this".



Request Information: Ask for your A-Number and the detention facility name.



Access to Counsel: Right to an attorney and a phone call to family, lawyer, or consulate.



5. IMPORTANT URLs AND PHONE NUMBERS

Legal Assistance:

Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM): www.ilcm.org

Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid: 877-696-6529 | www.mylegalaid.org

National Immigration Law Center: (213) 639-3900 | www.nilc.org

ACLU of Minnesota: www.aclu-mn.org/en/request-assistance

Monitoring & Reporting:

Monarca MN (Rapid Response Hotline): <https://monarcamn.org/>

ICE Detainee Locator: <https://locator.ice.gov/>

Minnesota Attorney Look Up: <https://mars.courts.state.mn.us/>

ACLU Complaint Form: <https://intake.aclu-mn.org/>



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1. ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTATION



Organize Your Files: Keep copies of passport, visa, I-94. Maintain evidence of physical presence/lawful status.



What to Carry: Carry copy of legal immigration documents. Consider keeping original passport safe; carry state ID/license and visa/I-94 copy.



Status Extensions: If pending extension, carry previous I-94/approval and new receipt notice.



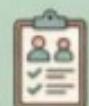
Updates: Promptly update expired documents (visa, driver's license).

U.S. VISITOR GUIDE: PROTECTING YOUR STATUS & RIGHTS IN MINNESOTA

For visitors (e.g., B1/B2 visa), maintaining legal safety involves organization and knowing your constitutional rights. Follow this advice for proactive preparation.



2. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



Safety Plan: Create family safety plan with emergency contacts; ensure family knows location of medical/financial info.



Memorize Important Data: Memorize A-Number (9-digit, if assigned) and family/trusted attorney phone numbers.



Attorney Verification: Check attorney license via Minnesota Attorney Look Up (<https://mars.courts.state.mn.us/>).



3. INTERACTING WITH ICE OR POLICE



Right to Remain Silent: Constitutional right. Clearly state: "I am exercising my right to remain silent". (Consult lawyer for non-immigrant visa exceptions).



Public vs. Private Spaces: Officers can enter public spaces without warrant; private areas/homes require judicial warrant or consent.



Verification of Warrants: Administrative warrants do not grant entry to homes or private offices.



Right to Record: Right to record actions in public without interference; do not obstruct.



4. PROCEDURES IF DETAINED



Do Not Sign: Never sign if you don't understand. Say: "I want to consult with a lawyer before I sign this".



Request Info: Ask for your A-Number and detention facility name.



Locating Someone: Family can find location via ICE Detainee Locator (<https://locator.ice.dhs.gov/>) using A-Number and country of birth.



5. IMPORTANT URLs AND PHONE NUMBERS

• Legal and Rights Resources:

- **Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid:** 877-696-6529 | www.mylegalaid.org
- **National Immigration Law Center:** (213) 639-3900 | www.nilc.org
- **Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM):** www.ilcm.org
- **ACLU of Minnesota:** www.aclu-mn.org/en/request-assistance or [https://intake.aclu-mn.org/](http://intake.aclu-mn.org/)

• Community Support:

- **Monarca MN (ICE Reporting Hotline):** <https://monarcamn.org/>
- **Stand With Minnesota (Community Directory):** <https://www.standwithminnesota.com/>



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ASYLUM SEEKER GUIDE: PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS & SAFETY IN THE U.S.

Asylum seekers have specific legal protections and constitutional rights. To navigate the immigration system safely and protect yourself during enforcement actions, follow these procedural steps.

Ver. 1/23/26



1. DOCUMENTATION & PREPAREDNESS

- Carry Proof of Status:** Always carry copy of legal status documents (EAD or asylum receipt if pending).
- Evidence of Presence:** If in U.S. >2 years, carry evidence (e.g., phone bill) for potential additional legal rights.
- Update Records:** Promptly renew expired documents (work permit, driver's license, immigration filings).
- Personal Emergency Plan:**
 - Memorize A-Number:** Memorize 9-digit immigration number; ensure family has it.
 - Store Originals:** Keep original passports, birth certificates safe; tell family location.
 - Memorize Numbers:** Memorize phone numbers of a trusted attorney and family.



2. RIGHTS DURING ENCOUNTERS WITH ICE OR POLICE

- Right to Remain Silent:** Not required to discuss status. Clearly state: "I am exercising my right to remain silent".
- Warrants and Entry:** Do not open door without a judicial warrant signed by a judge/magistrate. Administrative warrants do not grant entry.
- Refuse Searches:** Right to refuse search of person, car, or home without a warrant.
- Record the Action:** Right to record actions in public without interference.



3. PROCEDURES IF ARRESTED OR DETAINED

- Do Not Sign:** Never sign if you don't understand. Say: "I want to consult with a lawyer before I sign this".
- Request Bond:** Ask immigration judge for bond for release while case continues (not everyone qualifies, but right to ask exists).
- Legal Representation:** Right to a lawyer and a phone call to family, attorney, or consulate. Ask for list of free/pro bono lawyers.
- Locating Detainees:** Family can find location via ICE Detainee Locator (<https://locator.ice.gov/>) using A-Number and country of birth.



4. ESSENTIAL RESOURCES AND CONTACTS

- Legal and Rights Defense:**
 - Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM):** www.ilcm.org
 - Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid:** 877-696-6529 | www.mylegalaid.org
 - ACLU of Minnesota:** www.aclu-mn.org/en/request-assistance | <https://intake.aclu-mn.org/>
 - National Immigration Law Center (NILC):** (213) 639-3900 | www.nilc.org
- Emergency Tools:**
 - ICE Detainee Locator:** <https://locator.ice.gov/>
 - Minnesota Attorney Look Up:** Verify a lawyer's license. | <https://mars.courts.state.mn.us/>
 - Monarca MN:** Primary hotline for reporting ICE presence. | <https://monarcamn.org>
 - Midwest Immigration Bond Fund:** Assistance with bond payments. | Fill out an application [here](#)

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