

BYSTANDER KNOW YOUR RIGHTS:

Creating Accountability & Offering Support

KNOW YOUR (AND EVERYONE'S) RIGHTS



- Everyone living in the U.S. has certain **basic rights** under the U.S. Constitution, regardless of immigration status.
- It is important to assert these rights when safe to do so.
- Asserting the right to remain silent can be difficult - carry a **Know Your Rights card**!
- If you haven't received a KYR training yet, to learn about our basic rights in interaction with immigration enforcement, you can watch one on MIRA's website bit.ly/KYRMIRA.

CREATING ACCOUNTABILITY

Call LUCE Defense Hotline (617-370-5023)

- Where exactly are the agents?
- How many immigration or law enforcement agents are there?
- What are the agents doing?
- How long have the agents been in that location?
- What, if anything, do you know about the person being detained?

Ask questions (even if you don't get answers)

- What agency are you with?
- What are your names and badge numbers?
- Do you have a warrant? Can I see it? (**note:** they are not required to show it to a bystander).
- Where is this person being taken?
- You have the right to remain silent.

PROVIDING SUPPORT

Remind people of their rights:

- You have the right to remain silent!
- You have the right to refuse search without a warrant
- You have the right to contact an attorney
- You have the right to not sign anything without consulting with a lawyer first
- You have the right to contact your consulate

Offer to call someone (attorney or family member):

- Do you want me to call someone for you?
- Do I have your permission to share this video?

After the fact

- Contact emergency contact (if provided). Assist family in **locating** their loved one in the immigration detention system.
- Reach out to local community organizations that can provide support or mutual aid.

PREPARE IN ADVANCE

You can also offer support proactively. Some things you could do:

- Sit with someone while they complete a Caregiver Authorization Affidavit or help them connect with a provider who can assist them.
- Offer to be someone's emergency contact - be prepared.
- Offer to be the temporary caretaker for someone's children.
- Help someone gather and organize their documents, make copies, and keep them in a safe place.
- Help someone obtain passports for their children.

SAFETY FIRST

- If you feel it is not safe for you to be a bystander, you can calmly leave the situation.
- If you choose to act as a bystander:
 - Stay Calm
 - Keep People Safe
 - Gather Evidence

Record what is happening

- It's your first amendment right to record in public spaces.
- You must record from a reasonable distance. If an officer asks you to step back, you should comply with the order, but may continue recording.
- On private property, an owner may ask you to leave. Note that in some public spaces recording is prohibited (**ex:** courthouses).
- If a law enforcement officer seizes a bystander's recording device, they need a judicial warrant to gain access to the device or recording.
- Consider locking phone with a password instead of face recognition.
- Capture any identifying information (agency vests, uniform insignia, badge numbers, license plates, reactions from bystanders).

WHAT YOU DON'T HAVE A RIGHT TO DO

- Physically interfere with a detention.
- Pushing or otherwise touching an ICE/law enforcement officer.
- Blocking an ICE/law enforcement officer.
- Putting your body between the officer and the individual.
- Hiding the person that ICE/law enforcement is attempting to detain.

You should not escalate the situation or run. Remember - your actions as a bystander can affect a person's case.

RESOURCES

- LUCE Network
- MIRA Immigration Helpline
- Boston Immigrant Justice Accompaniment Network
- Massachusetts Access to Counsel Initiative
- PAIR Project
- Legal Services Directory in Massachusetts



Find more
'Know Your Rights' resources
on our website
bit.ly/KYRMIRA