



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

Anyone offering immigration help must follow certain laws. These are some of the most important ones:

❖ A person who says he/she is a lawyer or attorney must have a license from the State Bar of any state. You can ask to see his/her license and write down the number, and you can call the State Bar where he/she is licensed to find out if the license is valid.

❖ A person who does immigration papers but is not a lawyer is called an immigration consultant.

An Immigration Consultant must obey these laws:

1. Give you a written contract that:

- ◆ is in your own language
 - ◆ that says you can cancel for any reason within 72 hours
 - ◆ that says how much money you have to pay
 - ◆ that says what kind of application the person will file for you
2. Pay a \$50,000 bond to the Secretary of State and give you proof of the bond.
 3. Have a big sign in his/her office saying he/she is not an attorney and showing that the bond has been paid.
 4. Never pretend to be a lawyer.
 5. Never say he/she has special influence with CIS.
 6. Never file any document for you without going over it with you and explaining it to you.
 7. Never keep your original documents and refuse to return them unless you pay.
 8. Never tell you to lie on an application.

What to do if someone has cheated you:

- ❖ If the person cheating you is a lawyer, call the State Bar where he is licensed. In California, that number is: **(800) 843-9053**
- ❖ If the person cheating you is not a lawyer, you can call:
 - ◆ Attorney General's Hotline (Office of Immig. Assistance): **(888) 587-0557**
 - ◆ And your city's police dept. *or* District Attorney's Office (If you live in Alameda County, you can call: 1-877-288-2882).

Where to Go for Immigration Help:

HELPLINK Immigration Hotline:

1-800-273-6222

Bar Association of San Francisco:

(415) 982-1600 (for a referral to an immigration attorney)

Catholic Charities:

Oakland: (510) 768-3100; San Jose: (408) 944-0362

International Institute:

San Francisco: (415) 538-8100; Oakland: (510) 451-2846

Redwood City: (650) 780-7530

Coastside Hope:

El Granada (San Mateo County): (650) 726-9071

Community Legal Services

East Palo Alto: (650) 326-6440

California Human Development:

Santa Rosa: (707) 523-1155