



DANGER ON THE ROAD: COMMUNITY KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

A closer look at the Houston Police Department's entanglement
with ICE and ways for community to remain safe

OCTOBER 2026

1. All drivers, regardless of immigration status, should carry a [red know your rights card](#). While drivers in TX must show their driver's licenses when legally detained by peace officers, you do not need to answer questions about your immigration status and can assert your right to remain silent.
2. In Texas, to renew the registration of your vehicle, starting January 1, 2027, you will need to present a [valid form of identification](#). If you have a foreign passport, you will need to show an I-94 (not in parole status), a permanent residence card, or an unexpired visa. If you do not have a valid form of ID and will need to renew your vehicle registration after January 1, 2027, you should create a [family preparedness plan](#) in case of detention as a result of a traffic stop. It is also important to avoid driving at excessive speed and respect all traffic lights as these were the most common reasons for moving violations ending in calls to ICE.
3. If you are involved in a vehicle accident you are required to call the police under Texas law if a vehicle accident resulted in the injury or death of a person or damage to property of \$1,000 or more.¹ Texas drivers involved in vehicle accidents must call the police if the accident resulted in injury or death of a person or damage to a vehicle to the extent it cannot be driven safely.² Failure to report an accident to police if it involves any of the above could result in

1 TX Transportation code § 550.062(a).

2 TX transportation code § 550.26(a).

continued...

criminal charges. It is important to note that some insurance companies require a police report in order to file a claim. It is important to familiarize yourself with your insurance company requirements ahead of time.

4. If you have an accident that involves injury, death or property damage making the car unsafe to drive or exceeding more than \$1,000 it is important to understand your responsibility under the law.



- a. Do not flee the scene as this can lead to fines or imprisonment.
 - b. If the police arrive at the scene of the accident, you do not need to answer any questions regarding your immigration status.
 - c. You have the right to remain silent and only provide the information required under the law such as a driver's license and vehicle registration.³
 - d. Create a [family plan](#) in case you are detained and transferred to ICE custody as a result of the vehicle accident.
5. If you are a passenger, you do not need to answer questions about your immigration status or present your identification unless you are under arrest.⁴
6. You have a right to record in public spaces under the First amendment as long as recording does not interfere with law enforcement.⁵
7. Currently, a simple interaction with law enforcement can lead to permanent family separation. It is important to plan ahead. You should speak with an

3 TX transportation code § 550.023(a).

4 TX Penal code § 38.02.

5 TX Penal code § 1.07 defines public spaces as streets, sidewalks, parks, the public space of a building like common areas, and all areas the public is allowed to be present.

continued...

immigration attorney to assess your individual risk of detention and possible remedies ahead of time.⁶

- 8.** Speak with family members and loved ones about a [family preparedness plan](#) and make sure to keep all important documents handy so that your family members or loved ones are able to find them quickly and begin the immigration process should you be detained.
- 9.** It is also important to remember that everyone in the United States, regardless of immigration status, has rights under the Constitution. Everyone should carry a [red know your rights card](#) in their cars or on their person in case of a police or ICE encounter.

⁶ Houston has an immigration hotline which can help provide resources. You can call 1-833-468-4664 (HOU-IMMI) to request a call back. You can also find a private attorney on the American Immigration Lawyers Association's (AILA) website at: <https://www.aialawyer.com/> to schedule a consultation.