



# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS SPANISH TRAINING CURRICULUM

*A tool for trainers for training community members on their rights in case of contact with ICE*

By Grisel Ruiz, Mark Silverman, and Nikki Marquez

## Know Your Rights

These Know Your Rights skits and curriculum enable trainers to teach community members what their rights are and how to respond if they ever encounter Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents. As an interactive exercise, these skits are great supplements to a Know Your Rights community presentation. Recruit audience members to play a role in each skit, which allows community members to practice exercising their rights, building the necessary muscle memory needed for interacting with ICE, while interacting with trainers in a fun way.

Since many KYR presentations are conducted in Spanish, this resource is in English but a Spanish version is also available.

## Introduction: Exercising Your Rights

*Before you begin the skits, pass out Red Cards to all in attendance. To find out more about ordering Red Cards, visit: <https://www.ilrc.org/red-cards>.*

**Narrator:** For most undocumented immigrants, the risk of deportation is minor if they exercise their rights. The big lesson for today is: **It's better to prevent than cry later!**

**EVERYONE is protected under the United States Constitution. It does not matter if you are a citizen, legal permanent resident, or undocumented.**

Under the Fourth Amendment, you have the right to not open your door.

The Fifth Amendment protects your right to not answer questions. This amendment gives you the right to not answering questions, regardless of whether its "la migra" or ICE, if you don't want to.

## Exercise One

**Narrator:** Today is the day before this workshop and you are at home. You don't yet know your rights.

**ICE:** *Knock Knock! Open Up! Open the door! Knock Knock!*

**Naomi:** Who is it?

**ICE:** It's ICE police. Open the door!

**Naomi:** Oh no! It's the police! What do I do?

**ICE:** *Knock Knock! Open Up! Open the door! We only want to ask you a couple questions.*

**Naomi:** *Opens the door.*

**ICE:** Do you have papers?

**Naomi:** Well, no I don't.

**ICE:** You are under arrest for being in this country illegally,

*The woman is detained and taken to a detention center.*

## Exercise Two

**Narrator:** Today is the day after this workshop and once again, you are at home. Now, you know your rights.

**ICE:** *Knock Knock! Open Up! Open the door!*

**Silvia:** Who is it?

**ICE:** It's ICE police. Open the door.

**Silvia:** Oh no! It's the police! What do I do?

**ICE:** *Knock Knock. Open Up! Knock Knock! Open the door. We only want to ask you a couple questions.*

**Silvia:** Questions about what?

**ICE:** This is ICE. Open the door.

**Silvia:** No, I have the right to not let ICE into my house. I will pass you a red card that explains the rights I am currently exercising. Please return the card to me after you have read it.

**ICE:** (After reading the card) Yes, we have a judicial warrant. Open the door so I can show it to you.

**Silvia:** Please, pass the the warrant under the door or through the window so I can read it.

**ICE:** We don't have the warrant and this is ICE. Open the door now or you will have problems!

**Narrator:** ICE almost never has a warrant and that is why you don't have to open the door.

**Silvia:** I have the right to not open the door to ICE if you don't have a court issued warrant or arrest warrant with my name on it and signed by a federal judge.

**ICE:** If you don't open the door, we will come back with a court issued warrant

**Silvia:** That's fine. When you bring the warrant, I will open the door, and prepare coffee and snacks.

**ICE:** Well, as you wish, we WILL come back in a couple of hours or tomorrow. *Speaking sarcastically.*

**Silvia:** That is fine, have a nice day.

**Narrator:** How did Silvia protect herself?

Silvia exercised her rights and did not open the door. The ICE agent could not arrest her even though she was undocumented or had a removal order.

Sometimes ICE shows documents that look like warrants but they aren't warrants. Be alert! Look at the paper and see if it has your name or address on it, if it has the word "warrant" on it, AND is signed by a judge or federal magistrate. A warrant must have all three of these things.

One of the tactics that ICE uses is to pretend to be local police. Be careful with this and don't get confused. The Fourth Amendment applies to the local police but if you want to allow the local police inside, you should ask for some form of identification (for example, have them hold up their badge through the window) to make sure that the officer is not an ICE agent. If you have a criminal case, talk to your criminal defense attorney to get advice for your situation and what you should do if it is local police.

The Fifth Amendment protects the right to not answer questions. This amendment gives you the right to not answer questions no matter who asks, including ICE, and you don't have to speak with them.

Remain silent! It's your right. ICE must present evidence that you are here illegally or that you are a foreigner.

### Exercise Three

**Narrator:** Today is the day after this workshop and you are walking down the street. You know your rights.

**ICE:** Good morning.

**Diego:** Good morning.

**ICE:** Do you have papers? Immigration papers? Do you have papers?

**Diego:** I have the right not to answer any question.

**ICE:** Yes, you must answer my questions. You must answer my questions! We are the government. I'm an ICE agent. I'm with the government. *The agent gets angry.*

**Diego:** I have the right not to answer any question.

**ICE:** OK. By the way you speak, it seems like you are from Michoacán. Is that right?

**Diego:** I have the right not to answer any of your questions.

**ICE:** You are going to have big problems if you don't answer my questions.

**Diego:** I have the right not to answer any question. Am I free to leave now?

**Narrator:** A round of applause for our actors! It's very important you do not answer any questions.

Remember the old saying, the fish dies by its own mouth. Don't give ICE the information they need to arrest you. ICE needs to have evidence that you are a foreigner. That's why it is very important that you don't answer their question with "Yes, I am from Michoacán." Simply say "I have the right to not answer any questions."

### If ICE Arrests You

- Do NOT answer any questions. Do not tell ICE where you were born or how you entered the United States.
- Do NOT show ICE any documents, unless it's a letter from an attorney or a red card. Above all, do NOT show false documents!
- Do NOT sign anything, especially an order for "voluntary departure," without speaking with an attorney.
- Tell the ICE official that you want a hearing in Immigration Court.



**San Francisco**  
1663 Mission Street, Suite 602  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
t: 415.255.9499 f: 415.255.9792

**Washington D.C.**  
1016 16th Street, NW, Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20036  
t: 202.777.8999 f: 202.293.2849

[ilrc@ilrc.org](mailto:ilrc@ilrc.org)    [www.ilrc.org](http://www.ilrc.org)

#### About the Immigrant Legal Resource Center

The Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) works with immigrants, community organizations, legal professionals, law enforcement, and policy makers to build a democratic society that values diversity and the rights of all people. Through community education programs, legal training and technical assistance, and policy development and advocacy, the ILRC's mission is to protect and defend the fundamental rights of immigrant families and communities.