

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

## WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU INTERACT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT?



Right to remain silent



Right to speak to a lawyer



Do not open your door without warrant



Create a safety plan

### Prepare Yourself

- Know how to identify different law enforcement officials and know their powers
- Know the risks (seek legal advice)
- Know your rights
- Have a safety plan

### What is in a Safety Plan

- Lawyer (name and phone no.) e.g. Legal Aid Ontario: 1-800-668-8258
- Safety person (such as a support person, bondsperson, family member, community worker)
- Documents (identification and important documents - you could store them online)
- Remember important phone numbers and have someone know your legal name & date of birth
- Ensure all belongings are password-protected, if possible (only share your phone and laptop password with your safety person)

# WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU INTERACT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT?

## If police or immigration show up at your door

- Do not open the door
- If they ask to enter, you can ask if they have two warrants (arrest warrant + special entry warrant called a Feeney warrant or forcible entry warrant)
- If they do not have both, you may refuse to let them in (be aware that this may be used to argue that you are a flight risk by immigration authorities to detain you)
- Be calm, think about what you can do



## Who are they?

- Ask what form of law enforcement they work as- police? Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)? Bylaw officers?
- Only police may arrest you for criminal charges, they are also more likely to get the forcible entry warrants
- Often CBSA will be with police and/or bylaw officers
- CBSA and police (and some provincial officers) have power to arrest you
- Bylaw officers generally cannot arrest you but they may call CBSA and/or Police



## Know your rights

- Freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention: "Am I free to go? Why not?"
- Right to remain silent: "I do not want to answer"
- Rights to a lawyer and interpreter: "I want to call and speak to a lawyer. I need an interpreter"
- Don't sign anything before speaking with a lawyer
- If you contact a criminal lawyer, make sure that they talk to an immigration lawyer if there are immigration issues



## Get organized and fight for your rights

- Seek help from community organizations, for example:
- No one is illegal (Toronto)
- Migrant Rights Network
- Butterfly (Asian and Migrant Sex Workers Support Network)



For more information: <http://toronto.nooneisillegal.org/knowyourrights>

For legal advice about your situation, you should speak with a lawyer

[Emergency Card](#)

[Who is who: How to identify different law enforcement officers ?](#)