



Information for Those in Removal Proceedings in Immigration Court

The best way to avoid being deported is to be well aware of your rights and obligations during your case with the immigration court.

Rights

You have the following rights:

1. TO APPEAR AT YOUR HEARINGS AND SEE A JUDGE

- The Immigration court and the ICE office are two separate agencies, so do not be afraid to attend your hearing at the immigration court.
- You must attend all scheduled hearings in order to apply for asylum and remain in the United States.

2. HIRE A LAWYER TO REPRESENT YOU IN YOUR CASE

- You have the right to hire a lawyer, but this does NOT mean that you are required to obtain a lawyer. You can also represent yourself.
- The important thing is that you appear at your hearings with or without a lawyer.
- You have the right to ask the judge for more time to find a lawyer. The judge will give you several opportunities to request more time, but this is limited, and if you do not find a lawyer, eventually the judge will ask you to represent yourself.
- The judge will NOT order your deportation simply because you did not find a lawyer.

3. RIGHT TO AN INTERPRETER IN YOUR BEST LANGUAGE

- If English is not your best language, you have the right to ask the judge for an interpreter in your best language.



Obligations



You have the following obligations that you must fulfill to avoid a deportation order:

1. DO NOT MISS ANY HEARINGS

- The judge can order your deportation in your absence simply by missing a hearing. With a deportation order, you lose your opportunity to apply for asylum or other relief, and you can be effectively deported.
- To confirm your next hearing date, please call 1(800) 898-7180 or [visit this page](#).

2. SUBMIT YOUR ASYLUM APPLICATION WITHIN ONE YEAR OF ARRIVAL

- You must submit your asylum application within one year of arriving in the United States. To confirm your entry date, see your Notice to Appear.
- The asylum application must be completed in English, and it is not necessary for it to be completed by a lawyer. At the same time, be careful of notaries who pose as lawyers, and of fraudulent notices that promise to help with the asylum application but only take your money and do not fulfill their promises.
- If you do not submit your application within one year, or do not attempt to submit it as soon as possible after the year, the judge may conclude that you abandoned your case and order your deportation.

3. KEEP YOUR ADDRESS UPDATED WITH THE COURT

- If you change your address, you must fill out an EOIR-33 form to update your address directly with the court (not just with ICE).
- This way, if the court cancels and reschedules the date of your next hearing, they can notify you by mail to your home address. This is the only way the court notifies about appointment changes.
- If you miss your hearing because you did not receive this notice at your current address, the judge may order your deportation in your absence.
- If you need to update your address with the immigration court, you may do so online [here](#).



For more information, please refer to our [JDC Resource Packet for Immigrants](#).

If you have any questions, you can call the Attorney of the Day (AOD) Program at (408) 461-8795.