

Know Your Rights!

The objective of this exercise is to educate you about your rights and to roleplay common scenarios when interacting with local and federal law enforcement. By practicing saying phrases that help you exercise your rights you arm yourself with knowledge to protect yourself and your community.



You are stopped in the street.

- You are an undocumented immigrant coming out of a corner store with a soda you just bought. A police officer comes up to you.
- Two participants: (1) Police officer; (2) José Menéndez/Josefina Menéndez, an undocumented immigrant from Guatemala

On the Street

Police: "Excuse me, what is your name?"

José/Josefina responds

Police: "Can you show me some identification?"

José/Josefina responds

Police: "Are you a U.S. citizen?"

José/Josefina responds

Police: "We are arresting you."

José/Josefina responds

At the Police Station

Police: "We just have a few forms here we'd like you to sign, just part of our normal processing procedures. It's really to protect you."

José/Josefina responds

Police: "We'd just like to ask you a few questions, just routine stuff."

José/Josefina responds

On the Street

Police: "Excuse me, what is your name?"

José/Josefina: "I don't want to answer your questions."

Police: "Can you show me some identification?"

José/Josefina: "Am I under arrest?"
(if no): "Am I free to go?"
(if yes): "Why am I under arrest?"

Police: "Are you a U.S. citizen?"

José/Josefina: "I do not want to answer your questions."

Police: "We are arresting you."

José/Josefina:

- "Why am I being arrested?"
- "Can you please give me your name and badge number?"
- I want to talk to a lawyer before answering any questions."

At the Police Station

Police: "We just have a few forms here we'd like you to sign, just part of our normal processing procedures. It's really to protect you."

José/Josefina: "I will not sign anything until I talk with my lawyer."

Police: "We'd just like to ask you a few questions, just routine stuff."

José/Josefina: "I do not want to answer any questions. I want a lawyer."