

Protect Yourself—Tips for Immigrants

For foreign-born U.S. citizens and all other immigrants, we recommend:



Gathering and safeguarding documents, including:

1. Have documents that show that you have lived in the US for 2 years. These records could be:

- ☐ School records for you or your children
- ☐ Pay stubs
- ☐ Leases/rental agreements
- ☐ Utility bills
- ☐ Tax returns (if proper ITIN or Social Security Number used)
- ☐ Mail dating back 2 years

2. Identity documents like:

- ☐ Birth certificates for all family members
- ☐ Passports
- ☐ Naturalization certificate
- ☐ Certificate of citizenship
- ☐ Marriage certificates
- ☐ Divorce decrees
- ☐ Work permit (Employment Authorization Document)
- ☐ I-94 or stamped passport with date of entry
- ☐ Approval paperwork for visa, or other temporary stay

Make sure a trusted person who has legal status in the U.S. knows where the important documents are kept.



If you are a parent of minor children, you should contact your child's:

- 1. School:** Add a trustworthy family member or friend that has legal status in the U.S. as an emergency contact and pick-up for your child.
- 2. Doctor:** Check with your child's doctor to see what documents need to be completed in case you are not available and your child needs medical treatment. Add a trusted family member or friend as a person that can bring them to the doctor.



If you are a lawful permanent resident, which means you have a green card:

- Seek legal advice before traveling outside of the U.S.
- Seek legal advice before applying for U.S. citizenship



If you are *not* a lawful permanent resident:

- Seek legal advice from an immigration attorney
- Call our intake line to see if you are eligible, for legal help or pro se (self-help) assistance. If you are eligible, our intake will schedule you for an appointment at one of our clinics.
- Review Know Your Rights videos or attend a Know Your Rights event sponsored by Advocates for Basic Legal Equality.
immigration.ablelaw.org/know-your-rights

Help from non-attorneys may cause harm and prevent you from staying in the U.S.

Have Questions? We Can Help.



Call **1-888-246-4420**



Online **lasco.org**

Legal Aid of Southeast and Central Ohio (LASCO) provides free noncriminal legal help to people experiencing poverty, seniors, and veterans in 36 Ohio counties.

This information is based on current law, which is subject to change. If you have questions, contact LASCO. LASCO is an equal opportunity organization and will not allow discrimination of any kind.

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