

Know Your Rights: A Webinar For Refugees and Advocates

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we are one family under God

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Introduction

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Agenda

- I. Know the Law—The current state of the Executive Orders about refugees**
- II. Know your Rights—In the community, at home, and as you consider travel**
- III. Host your own Know Your Rights Presentations**
- IV. Educate and Advocate with the Community**



I. KNOW THE LAW

A Legal Update on Refugee-Related Executive Orders

- Executive Order 13769—January 27, 2017
- Executive Order 13780—March 15, 2017
- U.S. 4th and 9th Circuit Courts of Appeal Pending Appeals about Preliminary Injunctions that currently halt EO 13780

Executive Order (EO) 13769: Temporary Ban on 7-Muslim Countries and on Refugees

1. On January 27, 2017, President Trump issued EO 13769. It sought to cut U.S. refugee arrivals in 2017 to 50,000, to impose yet-to-be-determined, stricter vetting rules for immigrants, nonimmigrants, and refugees, and to ban from the United States
 - for 90 days the arrival of people from 7 Muslim-majority countries (Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen),
 - for 120 days virtually all refugees, and
 - indefinitely Syrian refugees.
2. Refugees, immigrants, and also States filed dozens of lawsuits in federal district courts against the EO because they believed that it violated the U.S. Constitution and U.S. federal law.
3. On February 3, 2017, a federal district court judge in Seattle, WA, temporarily stopped the 7-country ban and the refugee ban. Refugees started arriving again. The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the Seattle federal judge's decision on February 9, 2017.

EO 13780: A Replacement Temporary Ban on 6-Muslim Countries and on Refugees

4. March 6, 2017, the President issued EO 13780 to terminate and replace EO 13769. Some EO 13769 provisions were eliminated to try to address the concerns that the courts had in the lawsuits (e.g., the indefinite, Syrian refugee ban), but the basic approach of EO 13780 remains the same as the previous EO, that is, to cut U.S. refugee arrivals in 2017 to 50,000, to impose yet-to-be-determined, stricter vetting rules for immigrants, nonimmigrants, and refugees, and to ban from the United States for 90 days people from 6 Muslim-majority countries (no longer banning Iraqis), and for 120 days virtually all refugees.

5. On March 15, 2017, hours before EO 13780 was scheduled to go into effect and replace the halted EO 13769, the federal district court of Hawaii temporarily halted the EO 13780 sections about the 6-country ban and the refugee ban, including halting the reduction to 50,000 refugees admitted to the U.S. for 2017. Thus, refugees have been continuously able to arrive since February 3rd. Also on March 15, a federal district court in Maryland temporarily halted the 90-day, 6-country ban.

6. Both of EO 13780's temporary halts, known as preliminary injunctions, were appealed to the federal circuit courts of appeal and there were hearings about the validity of the preliminary injunctions on May 8 and May 15. We are awaiting decisions.

Family Reunification in time of EO 13780

Refugees resettled in the United States can seek to have their immediate family members join them as a refugee, most often through what is known as the Preference Three (P-3) process.

If the 9th Circuit decides to allow the refugee provisions of EO 13780 to go into affect , that could means that the family unity process will go much more slowly with fewer people allowed in.

Refugees who filed for family members should contact their resettlement agency or legal representative who filed the application to find out how the EO is impacting their family unity.



Questions About

I. Know the Law



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II. KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

This is community education only.
It is not legal advice.

For questions on your refugee status please consult
an immigration attorney or
an accredited representative.

What do rights have to do with me?

All have human dignity and human rights, wherever we are from or however we pray.

Refugee communities and those who serve them urgently need KNOW YOUR RIGHTS information, especially about changes and proposed changes in federal refugee policy.

Our intention is for people to BE PREPARED and NOT SCARED.

If you believe your rights are threatened or have been violated, you should talk to a lawyer. If someone you are serving has such issues, urge them to talk to a lawyer.

Know Your Rights In Your Community

Living in your community

- * Refugees have legal status and similar rights to U.S. citizens
- * You and your loved ones have the right to live in a safe environment
- * You are protected by local police department officers
- * If your safety is threatened or you are the victim of a crime:
 - > Dial 911 to report what happened – Interpretation is available
 - > Call your resettlement agency and an immigration attorney or accredited representative

Your Right to Religious Liberty

You have a constitutional right to practice your religion. You have the right to go to a place of worship, attend and hear sermons and religious lectures, participate in community activities, and pray in public.

If you experience religious discrimination or are targeted because of religion, you can contact your resettlement agency.

Avoid Criminal Behavior

A criminal conviction often prevents a refugee from applying for legal permanent residency or citizenship.

Non-US citizens, including refugees, can face possible deportation for minor offenses.

Talk to an immigration lawyer if you have been arrested for committing a crime so that you understand how your criminal case could impact your refugee status; also, if you have a conviction, talk to an immigration lawyer to see if you can lessen its impact on your immigration status.

OBEY THE
LAWS

SCCB

Follow Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Rules

USCCB has received several reports of recently arrived refugees receiving letters from local offices of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the U.S. federal agency that collects taxes.

Such letters are part of the Taxpayer Protection Program. The Internal Revenue Manual, [IRM](#), describes the process. With growing numbers of identity thefts, the purpose of these random letters and interviews is for IRS to check in with taxpayers to assure that the person claiming the tax refund has not stolen the identity of someone.

Taxpayers can seek Taxpayer Assistance Services (TAS) assistance if making the appointment poses a hardship to them. The toll-free TAS number is 877-777-4778. For refugees, let your resettlement agency know if you receive such a letter; for service providers, incorporate information about this IRS program into your orientation of newly arrived people.

Know Your Rights in Your Home

Living At Home

Visits by Federal Agents

What you can do:

You have the right to remain silent

You have the right to not sign any papers

You have the right to speak with a lawyer

Call your local refugee resettlement office or legal service



You have the right to choose not to answer any questions (for example, by saying, “I prefer not to answer that question at this time.”)

You can also write down or take pictures of the names and badge numbers of the officers

Know Your Rights if Interviewed By A Federal Agent

Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) or Department of Homeland Security (DHS) may seek to talk with you. You have the right to decline to be interviewed, but this can be viewed with suspicion. It would be wise to talk to your lawyer or legal representative as well as your resettlement agency first about the interview request.

If you agree to an interview:

- > You have the right to have an attorney present. Find legal services at <https://cliniclegal.org/directory> or <http://www.aialawyer.org/>.
- > You can choose the time and place for the interview.
- > You can request to know in advance what the questions will be at the interview and have an interpreter present.
- > You do not have to answer all the questions you are asked, if you are not comfortable.

REMEMBER: YOU MUST NOT GIVE FALSE INFORMATION DURING YOUR INTERVIEW. It will be considered a criminal offense and may result in negative consequences.

Know Your Rights Regarding Surveillance

Surveillance is when someone is monitoring your movements or your communications.

Local, state, and federal law enforcement can sometimes legally do surveillance if they follow proper procedures.

The specific laws and regulations concerning these procedures vary from state to state.

It is advised to speak with a lawyer if you feel you are under surveillance.

Monitor Your Internet Use

Be careful not to visit websites that might hold extremist ideologies or engage in online conversations with others who might hold radical views.

There can often be a generation gap between how parents are accustomed to using the Internet and how children or youth choose to use social media. Talk to your children and teenagers about what are appropriate internet sites to visit and what you expect them to avoid.

Know Your Rights About Travel

Considering travelling Internationally?

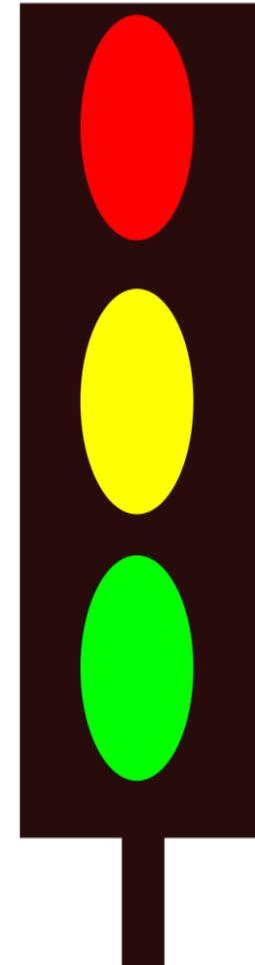
Travel Ban of EO 13780 is Temporarily Suspended

RED LIGHT FOR REFUGEES—This is a risky time for people with refugee status to travel (especially if from Syria, Iraq, Iranian, Sudan, Libya, Somalia, or Yemen)

YELLOW LIGHT FOR LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENTS--Green card holders can travel but may be stopped and questioned. There is the potential for secondary interviews or searches without warrant

GREEN LIGHT FOR PEOPLE WITH US CITIZENSHIP

Free legal services are available



At International Airports and Borders

- Officials at international airports and at ports of entry generally have the authority [without a warrant](#) to do a “routine search” of all luggage and to ask you questions about your citizenship and travel itinerary.
- If you are selected for a secondary interview at the airport, you have the right to ask for a lawyer. Many lawyers are available free of charge for this purpose.
- If you or someone you know is detained, you should contact: airport@refugeerights.org and report about your experience using [this form](#).

If you travel, leave a copy of your itinerary and travel document with a trusted family member or relative



Questions About

II. Know Your Rights



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III. Host a Know your Rights Workshop

Who: For presenters, partner with a trusted lawyer from a local resettlement or legal service office

Who: For co-sponsors, collaborate with key refugee and faith leaders to sponsor & advertise event with flyers, facebook, social media

What: Use this power-point and handout

When: At a convenient time and day

Where: Where the refugee community feels safe

Why: So that people are prepared, not scared

IV. Educate Elected Leaders & the Wider Community

Refugees & those who serve them are in a great position to educate elected Leaders & the wider Community

Tell your own stories or the stories of those whom you serve – stories of courage & freedom

Educate local elected officials and local leaders—build refugee champions

Join an education/advocacy coalition, such as Justice for Immigrants (JFI)

Questions About

JFI Website: <http://justiceforimmigrants.org/>:
For this and other webinars, and coming soon
“Refugee Know Your Rights Backgrounder.”

Action Alerts: <http://justiceforimmigrants.org/category/action-alerts/>

COMING SOON TO THE USCCB/MRS NETWORK:
DDS Memo “Keeping Clients and Client Confidentiality Safe”

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