

## **WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF DETAINED BY AN IMMIGRATION OFFICER**

**IF ANY OFFICERS COME TO YOUR HOME**, don't let them in unless they have a valid search warrant or arrest warrant. **DO NOT RESIST FORCEFULLY**

**DO NOT ANSWER ANY OF THEIR QUESTIONS.** Remain silent, it's you're right. Provide only your name

**ASK TO BE TAKEN BEFORE AN IMMIGRATION JUDGE.** Be aware, the officer will try to get you to sign a Voluntary Departure Agreement. **DO NOT SIGN ANY FORMS!** You are not required to sign anything

**ASK TO SPEAK** to the Mexican Consulate

**ASK THE OFFICER/JUDGE** to set a bond in your case

**WHEN YOU SEE A JUDGE** (assuming you have not been previously deported), you may be able to avoid or delay deportation if:

- You have been in the United States for more than 10 years and you have certain family members that are legally in the United States.
- You have been the victim of a crime in the United States.
- You have a fear of persecution if returned to your country.
- You are the beneficiary of a family-based immigration petition

**GENERALLY, YOU SHOULD BE RELEASED ON BOND** and stay in the United States until a decision is made. It could take up to 2 years

## **WHAT DO TO BEFORE YOU ARE DETAINED (HAVE A PLAN OF ACTION):**

Have a trusted contact person who you can call if you are detained

Arrange for someone who can care for your children in your absence

Contact an experienced immigration lawyer if you can afford one

Be prepared to pay for legal fees including a bond if you can afford one. But if you cannot, you should still ask to go before an immigration judge

If you own property, sign a Power of Attorney allowing someone you trust to take care of your property

**For more information, you can contact the following Volunteer Attorneys:**

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### **You Can Also Visit:**

[www.deportationresistance.com](http://www.deportationresistance.com)  
[www.borderangels.org](http://www.borderangels.org)