



Important Information for Housing Authority of Chester County Residents: What to Know About the New Deportation Orders in Effect

Recent changes in deportation orders may raise concerns for many residents. The Housing Authority of Chester County (HACC) is committed to ensuring that you are informed and aware of your rights during this time. Below is key information to help you stay prepared and protect yourself and your family.

Your Rights and What to Do in an Encounter with Immigration Authorities

1. **Warrants Are Required for Entry**
 - Authorities **cannot enter your home** without a proper warrant signed by a judge, unless you give them permission.
 - Politely ask to see the warrant and verify its legitimacy before allowing entry.
 2. **Keep Identification and Status Documents Handy**
 - Ensure you have appropriate documentation (such as a green card, asylum petition, or citizenship papers) organized and easily accessible.
 3. **Be Cautious in What You Say**
 - Anything you say to authorities **can be used in future proceedings**.
 - If you are unclear about the questions being asked, it's better to remain silent and wait until you can clarify or consult legal counsel.
 4. **Ask for a Translator**
 - If English is not your primary language, you have the right to request a translator.
 - Wait for a translator before answering any questions to ensure clear communication.
 5. **Request Legal Representation**
 - You have the right to legal counsel. Always request an attorney and keep a list of legal resources or contact numbers with you.
 6. **Stay Organized**
 - Know where your important documents are located so you can quickly access them if needed.
 7. **Remain Calm**
 - Stay as calm as possible to avoid escalating the situation.
 - Resisting arrest or reacting aggressively could result in additional charges or negatively impact your case, even if the detention was wrongful.
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Tips to Stay Prepared

- **Educate Your Family:** Ensure all members of your household understand their rights and what to do if approached by authorities.
- **Create an Emergency Plan:** Include a list of trusted legal contacts, family members to call, and arrangements for childcare if necessary.
- **Know Your Legal Options:** Stay informed about your status and the protections available to you under Pennsylvania and Federal laws.

Resources for Legal Assistance

- **Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center (PIRC):** Provides free or low-cost legal support. Contact info- www.pirclaw.org or 717-600-8099
- **American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Pennsylvania:** Offers resources on immigration rights and legal protections. Contact info- www.aclupa.org or 215-592-1343
- **Local Legal Aid Services:** Contact your local legal aid office for additional guidance. Legal Aid of Southeastern PA info- www.lasp.org or 877-429-5994

HACC encourages all residents to stay informed, prepared, and aware of their rights. If you have questions or need further assistance, please contact the Housing Authority of Chester County or a trusted legal resource.

Your safety and well-being are our priority.

- Your dedicated staff at The Housing Authority of the County of Chester

