

Know Your Rights

A guide for immigration-impacted students, staff, and community members

Regardless of your immigration or citizenship status, you have constitutional rights. This guide summarizes those rights, explains how Sierra College protects students under Administrative Procedure (AP) 3415 — Non-Participation in Immigration Enforcement Activities, and lists where to go for help.

Your Constitutional Rights

1

Right to remain silent

You do not have to answer questions about your immigration status, where you were born, or how you entered the country. You may say: "I choose to remain silent."

2

Right to refuse a search

You have the right to refuse to consent to a search of yourself, your car, or your home. Officers generally need a judicial warrant signed by a judge to search private space without your consent.

3

Right to calmly leave

If you are not under arrest, you have the right to calmly walk away. You can ask, "Am I free to go?"

4

Right to a lawyer

If you are arrested, you have the right to a lawyer. Ask for one immediately and do not sign anything you do not understand, especially without a lawyer present.

Sierra College's Commitment to You

Based on the framework of AP 3415, Non-Participation in Immigration Enforcement Activities

- Sierra College does not permit District staff, faculty, or campus safety to assist, participate in, or expend District resources on immigration enforcement, consistent with California's SB 54 (California Values Act) and AB 21.
- Immigration enforcement officers cannot enter non-public campus spaces — such as classrooms, offices, or private areas — without a valid judicial warrant, valid consent, or exigent circumstances. Areas open to the general public are treated differently than restricted-access spaces.
- College personnel are directed not to consent to a search or to release student information on behalf of the District. Only designated administrators (such as the President's Office or their designee) are authorized to review a warrant, court order, or subpoena and respond on the District's behalf.
- Student education records are protected under FERPA. Sierra College will not disclose personally identifiable student information — including immigration status — without written consent, except where required by law.

- If you believe immigration enforcement activity is happening on campus, report it immediately to Community Safety and the Undocumented Student Center so the College can respond and notify the campus community as appropriate.

This section reflects the general framework used across California Community College districts' AP 3415 policies. For the College's official, current policy language, refer to Sierra College's Board Policies & Administrative Procedures.

If You Are Approached On or Off Campus

- **Be prepared.** Make sure your emergency contact information is current in your mySierra account, so the College can reach a trusted person on your behalf if needed.
- **Stay calm.** Do not run, resist, or physically interfere, even if you believe the officer is acting without proper authority.
- **Ask if you are free to go.** If you are not being detained or arrested, you may calmly leave.
- **Do not open the door** to your home without seeing a judicial warrant signed by a judge (an ICE administrative warrant is not the same and does not authorize entry).
- **Do not sign anything** you do not fully understand, and do not provide false documents.
- **Ask for a lawyer immediately** if you are detained or arrested, and use your right to remain silent until one is present.
- **On campus:** ask the officer to wait, and immediately contact Community Safety and the Undocumented Student Center. Campus personnel are trained to direct immigration enforcement requests to designated College administrators.

Sierra College Resources & Support

Undocumented Student Center

undocu@sierracollege.edu | (916) 660-7557

Free Immigration Legal Services

Find Your Ally & Immigrant Legal Defense (ILD) referrals available through the Undocumented Student Center — filing fees covered.

On Campus, in an Emergency

Contact Community Safety immediately, then notify the Undocumented Student Center.

This guide is for general educational purposes and is not legal advice. For guidance specific to your situation, consult an immigration attorney or accredited representative through Find Your Ally / Immigrant Legal Defense via the Undocumented Student Center.