Legal Orientation Video Link:
https://portal.ice.gov/resources/immigration-videos

I. Immigration Fraud

- Only **licensed lawyers** and Department of Justice **accredited representatives** can give you legal advice and represent you in immigration court.
- Generally, people who call themselves **notarios, visa consultants, immigration consultants**, and other similar titles are *not* lawyers and **cannot represent you in immigration court.**
  - ✓ However, in Puerto Rico only, notarios are lawyers and can represent people in court.
  - ✓ Some people pretend to be immigration lawyers or accredited representatives so that they can take your money. This is immigration fraud, and it is against the law.
  - ✓ Beware of people who claim to have a special relationship with U.S. immigration agencies or courts. Also do not trust anyone who promises specific results on immigration relief for a price.
  - ✓ Look below to learn how to report people who offer to represent you if they are not a licensed lawyer or accredited representative.

Check if someone is a **licensed lawyer**	Check if someone is an **Accredited Representative**
• Ask what state they are licensed to practice law and for their bar number. • Then, look up the representative's information on the state's bar association or supreme court website. See the last page of this handout for a list of searchable directories for each state/territory. ✓ You can usually see if the lawyer is "active" and in "good standing," which means they can represent you. ✓ Sometimes, you can see if they have been publicly disciplined or suspended, which means they received some sort of consequence from the state bar for violating the law or legal ethics rules. ✓ If the lawyer is currently suspended, then they may not represent you. If they offer to represent you, you should report them to the state bar.	• Go to https://www.justice.gov/eoir/recognition-accreditation-roster-reports. ✓ Click "Accredited Representatives List." ✓ You can find all Accredited Representatives listed in alphabetical order by last name. • Or, search by state at: https://www.justice.gov/eoir/recognized-organizations-and-accredited-representatives-roster-state-and-city. • If they are not on the list, then they may not give you legal advice and you should report them to the Department of Justice.
• You can also go to https://www.justice.gov/eoir/list-of-currently-disciplined-practitioners to find a list of people who are not allowed to practice law.	

- **Who can be a "preparer" on my application?** When you are submitting an immigration application, anyone can help you fill out the application and sign the application as a "preparer." A "preparer" does not need to be an attorney or accredited representative, but they *cannot* give you legal advice.

II. Reporting Fraud

- If you believe someone is falsely claiming to be an attorney or accredited representative and is illegally giving legal advice, report them to the Department of Justice by e-mailing EOIR.Fraud.Program@usdoj.gov. For more detailed information on submitting a complaint, visit www.justice.gov/eoir/filing-complaint-eoir-fraud-and-abuse-prevention-program.
- You may also report it to the Federal Trade Commission by calling 1-877-382-4357.

III. Find a Lawyer

- Finding a reliable lawyer or accredited representative can make a big difference in your immigration case.
- Resources to look for a lawyer:
  - ✓ Try calling, e-mailing, or visiting each organization listed at these different websites.
  - ✓ Many organizations are not able to take new cases, but you should ask if they have a list of other private lawyers and nonprofit organizations in the area that you can contact to see if they can help you with your case.

Department of Justice's List of Pro Bono Legal Service Providers	Immigration Advocates Network	Department of Justice's Legal Orientation Programs or Immigration Helpdesks
• Go to: https://www.justice.gov/eoir/find-legal-representation. • Click "List of Pro Bono Legal Service Providers." • Select your state on the map or the list below. • Look at the organization(s) listed and try calling, e-mailing, or visiting each organization.	• Go to https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/legaldirectory/ • Select the language you understand. • Search by location and type of assistance needed.	• Go to https://www.justice.gov/eoir/olap/ich/listing to find the list of immigration court Helpdesks across the country and their contact information.

- If you still cannot find a lawyer, check out the following websites:
  - ✓ See self-help materials in the ICE Portal at https://portal.ice.gov/my-resources/find-lawyer.
  - ✓ See self-help materials on the EOIR website at https://www.justice.gov/eoir/self-help-materials.
  - ✓ You can also post your question on the ABA's Free Legal Answers at https://abafederal.freelegalanswers.org/.
- When you meet with lawyers, it is best to bring all your immigration documents organized in a folder so you can show the lawyer information about your case.
  - ✓ Your first meeting with a lawyer or accredited representative may be for an intake or consultation.
  - ✓ A lawyer or accredited representative is not officially representing you until you both sign a contract, which is also called a retainer agreement.
- If you are not able to find a lawyer, you must still attend all your immigration court hearings and work on your applications to remain in the United States. View all the other Legal Orientation Videos and Handouts to learn more about your immigration case.
  - ✓ To start, View the "Change Your Address" Legal Orientation Video and Handout.

IV. Lawyer-Client Relationship

- Once a lawyer or accredited representative takes your case, you are officially the client, and you now have an **attorney-client relationship**.
  - ✓ Always be honest with your lawyer.
  - ✓ Communication between you and your lawyer is confidential and generally stays private unless you give your lawyer permission to share it with others. There are very few exceptions to this rule.
  - ✓ A lawyer is **not allowed to lie** to the government or to the court for you or to represent you if you present false evidence or testimony.
  - ✓ Everything about your case is ultimately **your decision**. Your lawyer should only give you advice based on what they know about the law.
- Always remember:
  - ✓ Do not sign any papers that are blank.
  - ✓ Do not sign any papers that you do not understand.
  - ✓ Do not sign any papers that have false or incorrect information.
  - ✓ When paying a lawyer, ask about what the costs cover and always get a receipt.
  - ✓ Get copies of everything that you sign, including your contract with your lawyer and any papers that your lawyer submits for you.

V. Lawyer State/Territory Searchable Directories

State/Territory	Lawyer Searchable Directory Link
1. Alabama	Alabama State Bar Online Lawyer Directory
2. Alaska	Alaska Bar Association - Lawyer Directory
3. Arizona	State Bar of Arizona - Find a Lawyer
4. Arkansas	Office of Professional Conduct, Supreme Court of Arkansas - Attorney Search
5. California	State Bar of California - Attorney Search
6. Colorado	Colorado Supreme Court, Office of Attorney Regulation - Information Search
7. Connecticut	Statewide Grievance Committee - Attorney Firm Look-up
8. Delaware	Search for an active lawyer in Good Standing in Delaware and Delaware State Bar - Digest of Lawyer Discipline Search
9. District of Columbia	District of Columbia Office of Bar Counsel - Find a Lawyer
10. Florida	The Florida Bar - Find a Lawyer Search
11. Georgia	State Bar of Georgia - Member Directory
12. Guam	Guam Bar Association
13. Hawaii	Hawaii State Judiciary Membership Status Verification and Directory
14. Idaho	Idaho State Bar Attorney Roster
15. Illinois	Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission - Lawyer Search
16. Indiana	Indiana Roll of Attorneys - IN.gov. Read more about the Indiana Roll of Attorneys
17. Iowa	Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board - Search Lawyers Licensed in Iowa
18. Kansas	Supreme Court of Kansas - Online Attorney Directory
19. Kentucky	Kentucky Bar Association - Lawyer Locator or Roll of Attorneys
20. Louisiana	Louisiana State Bar Association Membership Directory
21. Maine	Maine Board of Overseers of the Bar - Attorney Directory
22. Maryland	State Bar of Maryland - Attorney Listings
23. Massachusetts	Massachusetts Office of the Bar Counsel - Attorney Look-up
24. Michigan	State Bar of Michigan - Attorney Directory Search
25. Minnesota	Minnesota Office of Professional Responsibility - Lawyer Public Decision Search
26. Mississippi	Mississippi State Bar - Lawyer Directory
27. Missouri	Official Missouri Directory of Lawyers - Missouri Bar
28. Montana	State Bar of Montana Member Search and Online Roll of Montana Attorneys
29. Nebraska	Nebraska State Bar - Lawyer Search
30. Nevada	State Bar of Nevada - Find a Lawyer
31. New Hampshire*	No public directory found. Search for Public Discipline Issued.
32. New Jersey*	New Jersey Courts - Searchable Attorney Index
33. New Mexico	State Bar of New Mexico - Attorney Finder
34. New York	New York Attorney Grievance Committees - USC Attorney Search
35. North Carolina	North Carolina State Bar - Find a Lawyer
36. North Dakota	Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of North Dakota - Lawyers Directory
37. Ohio	Ohio Supreme Court - Attorney Information Search

38. Oklahoma*	No public directory found.
39. Oregon	Oregon State Bar - Member Search
40. Pennsylvania	Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania - PA Attorney Search
41. Rhode Island	Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island
42. South Carolina	South Carolina Bar Association - Member Directory
43. South Dakota*	No public directory found.
44. Tennessee	Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility - Attorney Search
45. Texas	State Bar of Texas - Search for an Attorney
46. Utah	Utah State Bar - Find a Utah Lawyer Feature
47. Vermont	Professional Conduct Board of the Supreme Court of Vermont - PDF List of Attorneys in Good Standing
48. Virgin Island	Virgin Island Bar Association Member Search
49. Virginia*	Virginia State Bar - Attorney Records Search
50. Washington	Washington State Bar Association - Attorney Directory
51. West Virginia	West Virginia Office of Disciplinary Counsel - Member Directory Search
52. Wisconsin	Wisconsin Office of Lawyer Regulation
53. Wyoming	Wyoming State Bar - Membership Directory