

Are You an Immigrant in Need of Legal Services?

Everyone in California can access legal services, regardless of citizenship or immigration status.

The State Bar is a state agency that oversees the legal profession in California, including the licensing of attorneys.

The State Bar cannot represent clients or refer you to a particular attorney. However, the agency can provide reliable information about where to go for legal services.

If you need an attorney, the State Bar can connect you with providers of free or low-cost assistance. Many offer services in multiple languages. We can also help you find a local lawyer referral service that can connect you with a private attorney.

The organizations listed in this pamphlet can be a starting point to help you find the legal services you need. For a comprehensive and up-to-date list of organizations that provide immigrants with legal assistance in California, please go to www.calbar.ca.gov/ImmigrationLegalAid.

CONTACT THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA



Need Legal Help or to Find an Attorney
866-44-CA-LAW (866-442-2529)
Outside California: 415-538-2250



Complaints: Attorney Misconduct or Unauthorized Practice of Law
800-843-9053
Outside California: 213-765-1200



Client Security Fund
Reimburses clients who have lost money or property due to attorney misconduct. Restrictions apply.
213-765-1140
Email: clientsecurityfund@calbar.ca.gov

Offices

Main Office:

The State Bar of California
180 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
415-538-2000

Los Angeles Office:

The State Bar of California
845 South Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90017
213-765-1000

www.calbar.ca.gov

Follow the State Bar:



Looking for information about legal services in your native language?
Call the State Bar at 866-44-CA-LAW.

This pamphlet is also available in:

Spanish Español • Vietnamese Tiếng Việt
Korean 한국어 • Chinese 中文
• Russian Русский • Tagalog

Information in this pamphlet is valid as of September 2019.



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We are here to help



The State Bar
of California

LEGAL SERVICES FOR IMMIGRANTS IN CALIFORNIA



Rapid Response Networks

These are coalitions of human rights and service organizations, attorneys, and community leaders dedicated to aiding immigrants and their families when swift action is needed.

- **California Collaborative for Immigration Justice**
Statewide listing of Rapid Response Networks
<https://ccij.sfbay.org/california-rapid-response-networks>
- **Los Angeles Raids and Rapid Response Network**
888-624-4752
- **San Francisco Immigrants Legal & Education Network—Rapid Response Network**
www.sfilen.org
415-200-1548



Learn About Your Rights

- **California Office of the Attorney General**
www.oag.ca.gov/immigrant
The agency's Office of Immigration Assistance provides comprehensive information about your legal rights in multiple languages.
800-952-5225 (toll-free in California)
- **California Immigrant Guide**
www.immigrantguide.ca.gov
This multilingual online guide provided by the State of California includes a section on legal rights and citizenship.
- **National Immigration Law Center**
www.nilc.org
A nonprofit with information about national immigration laws and immigrant rights.
213-639-3900



Find Low-Cost/Free Legal Aid

- **Legal Resource Contact List**
www.calbar.ca.gov/ImmigrationLegalAid
The State Bar's list of California legal aid providers who provide immigration-related legal services is organized by immigration court and provided in English and Spanish.
- **LawHelpCA**
www.lawhelpca.org
A free source of information about common legal issues in California. Provides an updated directory of organizations that offer free or low-cost legal advice and representation.
- **California Rural Legal Assistance**
www.crla.org
Nonprofit that provides services and programs for low-income residents, including immigrants, in rural areas.
- **Immigration Advocates Legal Services Directory**
www.immigrationadvocates.org/legaldirectory
National, searchable directory of free or low-cost immigration legal services.



Find an Immigration Attorney

- **Lawyer Referral Services**
www.calbar.ca.gov/lrs
Local agencies that can refer you to a licensed attorney in your community. The State Bar can refer you to a certified lawyer referral service in your area.
866-442-2529, or 415-538-2250 (from outside California) Email: LRS@calbar.ca.gov
- **American Immigration Lawyers Association**
www.aialawyer.com
More than 15,000 immigration lawyers are members of AILA, the only association in the United States for immigration attorneys. Immigration attorneys licensed in any state can practice immigration law in California and represent you at a U.S. embassy or consulate overseas.

ABOUT IMMIGRATION CONSULTANTS

If you hire an immigration consultant rather than an attorney, you should know what these consultants can and cannot do for you. Immigration consultants can help you fill out paperwork, translate documents, and submit forms to government agencies. In California, they are not permitted to give legal advice, represent clients in Immigration Court, or select what forms you need to submit to government agencies.



To check whether an immigrant consultant is certified to work in California, you can use this search page provided by the California Secretary of State: specialfilings.sos.ca.gov/icbs

ABOUT OTHER LEGAL ISSUES

If you need help with legal issues other than immigration—such as a will, divorce, or criminal case—contact the State Bar for a referral, or contact LawHelpCA: www.lawhelpca.org.

WHEN AND WHERE TO FILE A COMPLAINT

If you suspect that someone offering you legal services is not competent, or is acting in a dishonest or fraudulent way, you can file a complaint with the State Bar. If someone promises or provides you legal advice but is not a licensed attorney, you should also notify the State Bar and file a complaint. You can find out if someone is a licensed attorney by contacting the State Bar.

Filing a complaint may prevent others in your community from being taken advantage of, and you may be eligible for reimbursements if you paid an attorney who engaged in misconduct.

Complaint forms are available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, and Chinese. You do not need to be a U.S. citizen to file a complaint, and the State Bar will not ask you about your immigration status. There is no cost to file a complaint.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU FILE A COMPLAINT

If you file a complaint, you will receive confirmation that the State Bar has received it. The agency will carefully review your complaint and investigate as needed.



For details about the complaint process:
www.calbar.ca.gov/AfterComplaint