

Additional Resources for Potential Fraud Victims

To file a complaint with law enforcement:
Contact your local precinct .

To file a complaint against an immigration service provider: Contact the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs by calling 311 or (212) 639-9675 or visit <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/consumers/file-complaint.page>

To obtain a referral for legal and social services providers: Contact the Office of New Americans Hotline at 1-800-566-7636.

To obtain a referral for a private attorney:
Contact the Association of the Bar of the City of New York Legal Referral Service at (212) 626-7373.

To find out the status of immigration paperwork: Contact the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) at 1-800-375-5283.

To find out if someone is authorized to practice law: Contact the New York State Court system, either via email at <http://iapps.courts.state.ny.us/attorney/AttorneySearch> or by mail or phone at:

**New York State Unified Court System
Office of Court Administration
Attorney Registration Unit**
25 Beaver Street, Room 840
New York, NY 10004
(212) 428-2800

How To File A Complaint

Immigrant Affairs Unit Helpline
(718) 250-3333

Email
IAU@brooklynda.org

In Person
Kings County District Attorney
Action Center
(718) 250-2340
350 Jay Street, 16th Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Walk-Ins Welcome
Monday – Friday
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Online
www.brooklynda.org

WE OFFER ASSISTANCE IN MANY LANGUAGES

MTA Subway Directions:

- The A, C or F train to the Jay Street/MetroTech Station.
Walk toward Jay Street.
- The R train to the Jay Street/MetroTech - Fulton Station.
Walk toward Jay Street.
- The 2, 3, 4 or 5 train to the Borough Hall Station.
Walk east and cross Adams Street to Jay Street
- The building entrance is on Jay Street.

MTA Bus Lines

- Jay Street: B26, B 57, B62, B67 and B54
- Adams Street: B25, B38, B41, B52 and B103 (walk towards Jay Street)

IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS UNIT



ERIC GONZALEZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**Are you or someone you know an
immigrant who has been the
victim of fraud or a scam?**

**If so, please contact the
Kings County District Attorney's
Office for help.**



ERIC GONZALEZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Brooklyn is home to one of the largest immigrant populations in the United States and our immigrant communities represent the beauty and rich diversity of our great city. Unfortunately, there are individuals and businesses that prey upon these communities and defraud and exploit innocent people. The District Attorney's Office established the Immigrant Affairs Unit to assist, educate and protect people against fraud.

What is the Kings County District Attorney's Office Immigrant Affairs Unit?

The Kings County District Attorney's Office Immigrant Affairs Unit investigates and prosecutes criminal schemes targeting immigrant communities and offers education and appropriate recourse to those who find themselves victims of such schemes. Victims of fraud can contact the Unit's helpline, by mail, by email, and through walk-ins to our Office. Assistance is available in various languages.

What if you are an undocumented immigrant?

The Immigrant Affairs Unit will take a complaint from anyone regardless of their immigration status. The complaint and the person filing the complaint will be treated confidentially.

Some Examples of Frauds or Scams:

- Businesses or individuals who falsely represent themselves as attorneys, lawyers, immigration specialists or "Notarios" and provide legal advice without being licensed to do so.
- Individuals who pretend to be law enforcement agents such as U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) agents.
- Individuals who falsely promise, for a fee, to sponsor work visas and/or employment training.
- Advance fee scams that target immigrants seeking employment.
- The production and purchase of false documents such as Driver's Licenses, Passports, Social Security and Resident Alien cards and/or other fraudulent documents.
- Employers who hire immigrants to do construction work or other jobs and then fail to pay them a legal wage.

Possible Indications of Fraud:

- The demand of immediate payments to an individual or business in order to "avoid" arrest or deportation.
- Exploiting English-speaking young children of immigrants to act as translators for a parent or elder on matters that are too complicated for young people to understand.
- The threat of deportation.
- The request for bank cards, credit cards, bank information or passwords to these and other personal documents.
- Businesses or individuals that do business by using "CASH ONLY," and do not provide receipts.
- The lack of a receipt for any monies paid for services.

Protect Yourself from Fraud and Scams:

- Never provide personal documents.
- Never provide information, over the phone, to someone who claims to be the IRS, a utility company or a debt collector.
- Never sign any blank documents or forms.
- Always demand paper receipts for any payments.
- Do not make payments with a prepaid money card or via Zelle or Venmo or other similar apps.
- Demand a copy of all forms, legal documents and paperwork filed on your behalf.

Kings County District Attorney's Office's Policy Regarding the Handling of Cases Against Non-Citizen Defendants:

The Kings County District Attorney's Office has implemented a new policy aimed at minimizing collateral immigration consequences of criminal convictions, particularly for misdemeanor and other low-level offenses.

The Office has hired two immigration attorneys to train all staff on immigration issues and to advise prosecutors when making plea offers and sentencing recommendations on cases of non-citizen defendants in an effort to avoid disproportionate collateral consequences, such as deportation, while maintaining public safety.

The District Attorney has indicated that his prosecutors must do more and take a more proactive role in making sure that a conviction for a minor offense does not lead to a severe and unjust outcome.