When You Encounter the Police or an Immigration Officer, You Have These Rights:

The Right to Remain Silent

- You do not have to answer all of the officer's questions. If asked, **you must give your name and address**. You can refuse to answer all other questions.
- **Do not** answer questions about where you were born. **Do not** show foreign identity documents. **Do not** lie or falsely claim to be a U.S. Citizen.

- If an **immigration agent** requests your immigration papers, you must show them if you have them with you. If you do not have them, say you want to remain silent and speak to an attorney. **Do not** show false documents.
- **If you are driving**, you must show the officer your driver's license, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance upon request. If you do not, you may get a ticket and have to go to court. You and your passengers can refuse to answer all other questions.

The Right to Not Consent to a Search

- You may refuse to give an officer permission to search your person, car, belongings or home. If the officer conducts the search anyway, say, **"I do not consent to this search."**
- If an officer comes to your home, you may decline to open the door unless the officer shows you a **warrant** signed by a judge stating that the officer may search your home or arrest you.

The Right to Walk Away Unless You Are Under Arrest

- Ask the officer if you are under arrest. If yes, say, **"I wish to remain silent and speak with an attorney."** If no, ask if you are free to leave.
- You have the **right to know why you are being detained** or arrested.
- **Remember: be polite, and stay calm**. Do not run, argue, resist or obstruct the officer. Do not attempt to flee a raid or an arrest.

The Right to Speak with an Attorney

- If you are detained or arrested, you **do not** have to answer questions or sign documents until you speak with an attorney.
- Never sign anything **you don't understand**.

If your rights are being violated, call Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA) at 1-800-666-6899