

Additional resources for individuals who believe that they have been the victim of a fraud or scam can also contact:

To file a complaint with law enforcement, contact: Your local police precinct. After making a complaint at your local precinct, contact the New York City Police Department's Community Affairs Bureau New Immigrant Outreach Program at 718- 624-3822. Complaints can be filed in any language.

To file a complaint against an immigration service provider, contact: The New York City Department of Consumer Affairs either by calling 311 or 212-639 9675 or visit their website at www.nyc.gov/html/dca/html/resources/forms.shtml. Complaints can be filed in any language.

To obtain a referral for legal and social service providers, such as immigration services, interpreter and translation services, labor rights and law services and benefits counseling, contact: The New American Hotline, at 800-566-7636 (Hotline has information in all languages)

To obtain a referral for a private lawyer, 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: United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) at 1-800-375-5283.

To find out if someone is authorized to practice law, contact: New York State court system, either via email at <https://apps.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

Kings County District Attorney's Office

Immigrant Fraud Unit Helpline

718-250-3333

Email: IFU@BrooklynDA.org

Or visit us at:

350 Jay Street, 16th Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201

**Walk-ins welcome from
9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
Monday—Friday**

**To submit an online Complaint
Form and for more information
visit us at**

[www. BrooklynDA.org](http://www.BrooklynDA.org)

MTA Subway Directions:

- The A, C or F train to the Jay Street/MetroTech station
- The R train to the Jay Street/MetroTech - Fulton Station and 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)

Eric Gonzalez
Acting District Attorney

**IMMIGRANT
FRAUD UNIT**

**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
Acting 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 Fraud Unit to assist, educate and protect people against fraud.

If you are an immigrant and think you have been scammed by a fraud, please call the:

Immigrant Fraud Unit Helpline

718-250-3333

email us at IFU@BrooklynDA.org

We offer assistance in all languages.

For more information and to submit an online complaint form visit

www.BrooklynDA.org

What is the Kings County District Attorney's Office Immigrant Fraud Unit? The Kings County District Attorney's Office Immigrant Fraud 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 Fraud Unit will take a complaint from anyone regardless of their immigration status. The complaint and the person filing the complaint will be treated confidentially.

Why do immigrants tend to be the targets of scams and frauds? Many immigrants are challenged when having to speak or understand the English language and they are unfamiliar with the U.S. legal system. The language barrier can make it difficult for immigrants to distinguish between scams and legitimate services. Also, some immigrants are often unwilling to contact law enforcement to report scams or to cooperate with law enforcement.

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 falsely promise -for a fee- to sponsor work Visas and/or employment training.
- Advance fee scams that target immigrants who are seeking employment.
- Individuals who pretend to be law enforcement agents such as U. S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) agents.

- The production and purchase of false documents such as Driver's Licenses, Passports, Social Security and Resident Alien cards and/or other fraudulent documents.
 - Businesses or individuals who offer assistance with housing services or health care enrollment, accept payment and/or disappear without providing the service.
 - 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 demands 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 a translator 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".
 - Financial and fraudulent investment scams such as pyramid schemes that result in a financial loss to victims.

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 prepaid money card.