



LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Sometimes students and scholars need to seek professional assistance through an immigration attorney. This handout contains information for international students about accessing legal resources in the community, and what to do if you encounter legal problems while in the U.S.



Meeting an Attorney

- Your initial consultation could be in person or by phone. You may be asked to complete an intake form before initial consultation- fill this out as completely as possible and return before your meeting.
- Ask about the pricing structure. Do they charge for the initial consultation? Do they charge an hourly rate or a flat fee for particular services?
- Be prepared for your meeting. Bring all relevant documents and create a timeline of dates and events.
- Depending on the circumstances, you may need to retain their services for a longer period of time. Prepare for possible expenses.



Attorney List

Immigration Attorneys by Campus Proximity

- [Immigration Attorneys by Campus](#)

Other Legal Services

- [Connecticut Legal Service](#)
- [National Immigration Legal Services Directory](#)





Legal Problems

- If you are summoned to appear in court (or even arrested), notify ISSS and your home country's embassy/consulate.
- Students/scholars are commonly summoned to court for driving violations. You have the choice of paying the fine for the citation (a "ticket"), or if you disagree with the violation you may contest the ticket in court.
- If arrested, it is important to work with an attorney and follow all necessary steps to resolve the case.
- After the case is concluded, keep all records associated with the case. These may be needed at future visa appointments.
- On the visa application DS-160 you are asked if you have ever been arrested. You will need to answer this question "Yes", even if your case is dismissed or resolved.



DUI or Drug Possession

- Your visa may be revoked if you are arrested for driving under the influence DUI (Driving Under the Influence). Contact ISSS and seek immigration attorney guidance.
- While marijuana may be legal to buy in some states, it is still a violation of federal law. You may not violate federal law while in the U.S. while on an F-1 or J-1 visa.



Other Legal Resources

- [American Civil Liberties Union](#)
- [ACLU Connecticut](#)
- [American Immigration Lawyers Association](#)
- [Know Your Rights: If ICE Visits a Home, Employer or Public Space](#)
- Department of State - [Rights and Protectors of Nonimmigrant Workers](#)

