

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

If someone from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) or the police comes to talk to you about your academic work or your connections to China, you have rights. Be safe and use them!

1. You have the right to remain silent, and to speak to an attorney. Contact Advancing Justice–LA for free legal help!

You do not have to answer the questions that they ask you, and if you decide you want to talk with them, you have the right to have an attorney there with you, even if they say you do not need one. Even if you have done nothing wrong, you can get into trouble if you say the wrong thing to the FBI or law enforcement. They may try to contact your family, friends, or acquaintances if you reference them in any discussion. Protect yourself by checking with an attorney before talking with law enforcement. Remember: if you do not talk to them, or you wait until later to talk to them, they cannot use that against you.

2. Never lie to law enforcement. Either remain silent (see #1) or tell the truth. Do not guess if you do not know.

If you tell something to law enforcement that is not true, even if it is accidental and you thought you were telling the truth, you might be charged with a crime.

3. You are not necessarily in trouble.

If you are being contacted, it does not necessarily mean that law enforcement thinks you have done something wrong or that you are under investigation. However, law enforcement is allowed to mislead you, so it is important to be safe, know your rights, and use them!

4. Don't discuss your political or religious views.

Law enforcement has asked Chinese Americans about their views on communism, the Chinese government, their religion, and other inappropriate topics. Regardless of your views on these subjects, they are protected by the U.S. Constitution. They should not ask you about these things, and if you tell them, it could end up in a file about you and be used against you. If they ask you about these topics, you should contact an attorney.

5. Protect yourself! Contact Advancing Justice-LA.

For a fuller description of your rights, see: <http://www.advancingjustice-alc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/KYR-Academics-Scientists.pdf>.

CHINESE	800.520.2356	KHMER	800.867.3126
KOREAN	800.867.3640	TAGALOG	855.300.2552
THAI	800.914.9583	VIETNAMESE	800.267.7395
ENGLISH/OTHER	888.349.9695		