

Know Your Rights: Protecting Immigrants in California's Health Care Spaces

What is SB 81?



- SB 81 is a bill co-sponsored by the California Immigrant Policy Center, California Nurses Association, California Nurses Association, Latino Coalition for a Healthy California, and Service Employees International Union that was signed into law on September 20, 2025.
- ✗ Stops health care providers from sharing patient's sensitive information, such as immigration status and place of birth information, with federal immigration enforcement agents (including I.C.E. and C.B.P), unless required by a valid court order, subpoena, or judicial warrant. Other patient medical information is already protected under state and federal laws.
- ✗ Prohibits anyone from entering non-public areas of health care facilities, like patient rooms or treatment areas, for purposes of immigration enforcement without a valid judicial warrant.

What are my rights?



- ✓ **You have the right to REMAIN SILENT and NOT ANSWER questions** from federal agents in a hospital, clinic or health care setting.
- ⚖️ **You have the right to SPEAK TO A LAWYER** before answering questions or signing documents by law enforcement including immigration agents.
- ⛔ **You have the right to REFUSE to consent to a search** by any law enforcement official, including immigration agents.

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What are my rights? (Continued)

-  **You have the right to PRIVACY** - your private medical information, including name, address, immigration status, and place of birth, are protected from being shared by health care providers, plans or personnel with immigration enforcement agencies.
-  **You have the right to seek medical care** and health care providers should have internal protocols to follow any time immigration enforcement agents try to access a health care facility or a patient

Key Terms

-  **Non-public areas** of health care facilities include patient rooms, treatment areas, or any areas where private medical information is discussed.
-  **Judicial warrant:** A warrant signed by a judge, which is required before federal agents can access patients, patient areas, or patients' medical information.