

WHAT SHOULD I DO BEFORE I TRAVEL?

If you have an immigration case, have been arrested, or are under surveillance by law enforcement, you should speak with an attorney before traveling. You can consult with CLEAR free of charge if you have any questions or concerns about international or domestic travel.

What to bring: Keep in mind that everything on your person or in your luggage is subject to search by airport officials.

Documents to bring with you:

- If flying domestically, travelers must show government-issued ID, such as a driver's license.
- If flying internationally, U.S. citizens and non-citizens must carry a valid passport.
- Non-citizens should carry their Green Card, visa papers, as well as any other relevant documents, such as an I-94 or I-20.
- We also recommend to bring a printout of your flight itinerary, and your emergency contact information.

What to bring as carry-on and check-in luggage:

- Check on the airline website for luggage and carry-on restrictions.
- Bring as much as you need, but be prepared that airport officials may ask you questions if they think you are carrying excessive or very little baggage.

- If you are traveling with \$10,000 or more, you must always declare it to a customs officer. It is better to travel with less money.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT WHILE TRAVELING?

Questioning. Airport officials are permitted to ask you questions about your identity, immigration status, and basic details of your trip. You should answer these questions truthfully, but do not volunteer any additional information.

Airport officials may try to ask you questions about your religious or political views, and whether you know particular individuals. These questions are inappropriate and beyond the scope of their authority. You can refuse to answer these questions by saying, "I'm not comfortable answering questions about my religious or political beliefs, or about who I know." If officials insist that you answer such questions, ask to speak with your attorney. Contact CLEAR for free legal representation or a referral.

Searches. Airport officials are permitted to search your belongings and your person. You can take steps to make the search less intrusive. When officials are searching your belongings or your person, do not volunteer any information. Take careful note of the official conducting the search, and if any items are taken out of your field of vision. Ask for an agent's full name, agency, badge number, and identification and write down that information.

Searches of your belongings:

- Ask that airport officials search your bags in front of you.
- If an agent confiscates any property, ask for a receipt and note the agent's name.
- If an agent copies or scans your electronic items, ask for a receipt and note the agent's name as well as the date, place and time.

Searches of your person:

- All passengers are required to undergo a routine search during security.
- If the airport has full body scanners, you can choose between the scan or a pat-down by an agent of the same gender. You have the right to ask for that pat-down to be conducted in a private area. If you consent to the scan, you have a right to ask for an officer of the same gender to view your scan image.
- If you wish to be searched in a private area, you can ask that you be allowed to bring a family member or friend.
- If asked to remove religious clothing, such as a hijab, you can ask the agent to use a wand over that area. If they insist that you remove your hijab, you have the right to remove it only in a private area and in front of an agent of the same gender.
- You may be selected for an additional search.
- Agents may not conduct a strip search as a routine part of airport security.

What can I do if I feel that I have been inappropriately questioned or searched?

- Keep a record with all the details of the incident that you can remember, including names or identifying information of the officials involved, receipts for

confiscated property, names and contact information of any witnesses.

- Call CLEAR. We can assist you in considering your options.
- You can file a complaint with the Department of Homeland Security's Traveler Redress Inquiry Program (TRIP) if you were improperly questioned, searched, detained, or denied boarding, or if you were harassed because of your religion, race, or national origin.
 - You can file the complaint online: <http://www.dhs.gov>
 - You can also email TRIP: trip@dhs.gov
 - If you have any questions about the TRIP process or need assistance filing a TRIP complaint, contact CLEAR.

WATCH LISTS

The federal government maintains at least two watch lists—the No-Fly List and the Selectee List. Although the legality of these lists is presently being challenged in court, if you are on a No-Fly List, you will not be given a boarding pass and will not be allowed to board the flight. If you are on a Selectee List, you will be subject to additional security screening but will be allowed to fly.

If you are told by an airline official that you are on a “list,” remain calm and ask for an explanation. Do not answer any additional questioning. If FBI or other agents ask to speak with you, say politely, “I will not answer your questions at this time.” If they insist, ask to speak with your attorney first, and contact CLEAR.

- If you are on either list, contact CLEAR. We can help you explore your options, as well as file a complaint with TRIP, free of charge.

IMMIGRATION CONSEQUENCES

If you are a Green Card holder, you are expected to live in the U.S. for at least 180 days (six months) each year. If you are leaving the country, you should return from your trip within six months. If you know that you will be abroad for longer than six months, you may have to apply for a reentry permit.

Immigration agents often detain undocumented or out-of-status individuals, even if they are traveling domestically. If this happens, do not answer any questions other than to identify yourself by name, and contact an attorney. If you already have an immigration court case, you should carry a copy of your next hearing notice when you travel.

CONTACT US FOR LEGAL SUPPORT

CLEAR provides free legal services to Muslim communities and others in New York City that are affected by post-9/11 law enforcement policies. If you need legal advice or a referral, contact CLEAR. We represent and advise individuals regarding law enforcement questioning and searches; grand jury and trial subpoenas; charitable giving; travel; and more.

Raise Awareness!

Host a CLEAR Know-Your-Rights workshop about these issues at your masjid or your community center. CLEAR facilitates workshops free of charge.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

FLYING WHILE MUSLIM

After 9/11, travel has become an especially stressful experience for many Muslims, Arabs, and South Asians. This pamphlet provides information on your rights while traveling, and what steps you can take to make your travel experience safe and less distressing.



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CLEAR SERVICES ARE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE.
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