



THE 3 SENTENCES THAT PROTECT YOUR FREEDOM

What to say (and what NOT to say) in the first 5 minutes with police

An action-checklist companion to the main guide. Read it, mark it, share it.

YO PELEO® POR TI

CHARLOTTE · RALEIGH · SMITHFIELD · ORLANDO

AVAILABLE 24/7 · 1-844-YO-PELEO (1-844-967-3536) · vasquezlawfirm.com

ACTION WORKSHEET · PRINT IT · FILL IT IN · CARRY IT

THE 3 SENTENCES CARD

Print this. Cut along the dotted line. Keep one in your wallet, one in your car, one by the door.

THE 3 SENTENCES — MEMORIZE THESE WORD FOR WORD

Say all three. Then stop talking.

1. "I am invoking my right to remain silent."
2. "I want a lawyer."
3. "I do not consent to any search."

YOUR 4 CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

1. 4th — Against unreasonable searches (no consent without a warrant).
2. 5th — To remain silent. MUST be invoked aloud (Salinas v. Texas).
3. 6th — To a lawyer. Once requested, interrogation must stop (Edwards v. Arizona).
4. Riley v. California (2014) — police need a warrant to search your phone.

IF POLICE OR ICE KNOCK

The door-side script

1. Speak through the door — do not open it.
2. Ask: "Do you have a JUDICIAL warrant signed by a judge?"
3. ICE Form I-200 / I-205 = administrative — does NOT permit entry.
4. If they slide a judicial warrant under the door — verify the address and judge's signature.
5. If they push in anyway — DO NOT RESIST. State: "I do not consent." Then say nothing else.

NEVER POST ON SOCIAL MEDIA AFTER AN ARREST · every post is evidence · silence wins cases

USE TODAY · NO ATTORNEY REQUIRED

Use This Today

A printable, fold-it-into-your-wallet rights card. EN + ES on one page.

Print this. Cut along the line. Fold once. Keep one card in your wallet, one in your glove box, one by the front door. If you are questioned, stopped, or approached by police or ICE — hand it over. Do not say a word. Let the card speak. This is what works.

The Rights Card — Print, Cut, Carry

SIDE 1 — ENGLISH — KNOW YOUR RIGHTS CARD

Vasquez Law Firm, PLLC · YO PELEO® POR TI

Hand this card to the officer. Then stay silent.

I am invoking my right to remain silent.

I want a lawyer.

I do not consent to any search of my person, vehicle, phone, or home.

I will not answer any questions without my lawyer present.

If I am not under arrest, I am free to leave.

If I am under arrest, please tell me what I am being arrested for.

My emergency contact and lawyer: Vasquez Law Firm 1-844-967-3536

----- CUT HERE -----

LADO 2 — ESPAÑOL — TARJETA DE DERECHOS

Vasquez Law Firm, PLLC · YO PELEO® POR TI

Entrégale esta tarjeta al oficial. Después quédate en silencio.

Estoy invocando mi derecho a permanecer en silencio.

Quiero un abogado.

No consiento a ningún registro de mi persona, vehículo, teléfono, ni hogar.

No responderé ninguna pregunta sin mi abogado presente.

Si no estoy bajo arresto, soy libre de irme.

Si estoy bajo arresto, díganme por qué estoy siendo arrestado.

Mi contacto y abogado: Vasquez Law Firm 1-844-967-3536

DOOR-SIDE SCRIPT — POLICE OR ICE AT YOUR HOME

If police or ICE knock at your door: do NOT open. Speak through the door. Ask if they have a JUDICIAL warrant signed by a federal judge (not an ICE administrative warrant Form I-200 or I-205). If they cannot produce a judicial warrant, you do not have to open the door. Call us — 1-844-967-3536 — and we answer 24/7.



FROM THE FOUNDING PARTNER

This is the action checklist. Use it like one.

I'm William Vásquez. I served as a soldier in the United States Air Force before law school, and today I lead Vasquez Law Firm — bilingual, working-family-focused, answering the phone 24/7. We've handled over 30,000 cases in 15 years.

This companion is shorter than the main guide on purpose. It's the part you actually do this week — folders to build, words to memorize, mistakes to avoid. Print it. Mark it up. Share it with anyone you love who's in the same fight.

If something in here gives you pause, that's the call to make. We answer in English and Spanish, day or night, no fee unless we win.

YO PELEO® POR TI — I fight for you.

— **William J. Vásquez**

Founding Attorney · NC + FL Bar · USAF Veteran

KEY TAKEAWAYS

What to remember from this checklist — the 5 things that change cases.

- 01** Most criminal cases are lost in the first 5 minutes — before a lawyer ever gets called — because people talk when they should stay silent.
- 02** Under *Salinas v. Texas* (2013), silence alone is not protection — you must say the words out loud to invoke your Fifth Amendment right.
- 03** Police are legally allowed to lie to you during questioning under *Frazier v. Cupp* — no detective conversation is ever truly off the record.
- 04** Never consent to a search of your car, phone, pockets, or home — once you say yes, your lawyer cannot fight that search later.
- 05** For non-citizens, even a minor plea can trigger deportation under *Padilla v. Kentucky* — criminal and immigration counsel must coordinate.



01 SECTION

The 3 Sentences You Must Memorize

I am going to give you three sentences. Memorize them. Practice them in the mirror. Teach them to your spouse, your kids, your parents. These are the words that protect your freedom:

1. I am invoking my right to remain silent.
2. I want a lawyer.
3. I do not consent to any search.

Say all three. Say them calmly. Say them once, clearly, and then stop talking. Not about the weather. Not about your job. Not about how long you have been in this country. Nothing.

At a traffic stop, after you hand over license, registration, and insurance, add a fourth question: Am I free to go? If the officer says yes, leave without another word. If the officer says no, you are detained — go back to sentences one, two, and three. Do not argue. Do not explain. Do not run. Do not resist physically, even if you believe the stop is illegal. Your lawyer fights that battle in court, not you on the side of the road.



02 SECTION

Your 4 Constitutional Rights

Four amendments shield you. Know them by name.

Fourth Amendment — no unreasonable searches or seizures. Police can ask permission, and if you say yes, they do not need a warrant. Say no. Always.

Fifth Amendment — no person shall be compelled to be a witness against themselves. Critical: in *Salinas v. Texas*, 570 U.S. 178 (2013), the Supreme Court held that silence alone can be used against you at trial. You must affirmatively invoke the right out loud.

Sixth Amendment — right to counsel. Under *Gideon v. Wainwright*, if you cannot afford a lawyer, one is appointed. Under *Edwards v. Arizona*, once you ask for a lawyer, the interrogation must stop.

Miranda only applies during custodial interrogation — not every police contact. That is why this rule is simple: invoke your rights every single time, custody or not. Detectives are trained to make voluntary conversations feel friendly so Miranda never attaches. Friendly is the trap.



03 SECTION

At Your Home — ICE or Police at the Door

Knock on your door at 6 a.m. is not a reason to open it. Speak through the door. Stay calm.

Ask one question: Do you have a warrant signed by a judge? Then ask them to slide it under the door or hold it up to a window. Read it carefully.

A judicial warrant is signed by a judge or magistrate, names your address, and authorizes entry. An ICE administrative warrant — Form I-200 or I-205 — is signed by an ICE officer, not a judge, and does NOT give them legal authority to enter your home without your consent. If what they show you is an administrative warrant, you do not have to open the door. Say so, respectfully and clearly: I do not consent to entry.

If they have a valid judicial warrant: open the door, do not resist, but do not answer questions. Say the three sentences. Memorize officer names and badge numbers. Do not sign anything. Tell every adult and child in your household this protocol before you ever need it.



04 SECTION

Social Media After Arrest — Total Silence

The moment you are charged or arrested, your phone becomes evidence. Treat it that way.

Do NOT post about the case — not even I did not do it or this is unfair. Do NOT delete posts, photos, messages, or your accounts. Deletion is destruction of evidence, and under 18 U.S.C. §1519 it can become its own federal charge — obstruction of justice. Do NOT message victims, witnesses, or co-defendants. That is witness tampering.

Do NOT accept friend requests from people you do not know — police use undercover accounts, documented repeatedly in NC and FL cases. Do NOT talk about the case on the jail phone. Every call is recorded except calls to your attorney (18 U.S.C. §2510).

What you CAN do: set every account to private without deleting anything that already exists. Stop posting until the case is closed. Tell your attorney everything that is already public. Assume the prosecutor will read every comment, every like, every reel. Because they will.



05 SECTION

Bail and Bond — North Carolina and Florida

After arrest, a magistrate sets a bond — the amount required for release pending trial. NC G.S. §15A-533 and §534 govern in North Carolina. Fla. R. Crim. P. 3.131 and Fla. Stat. §903 govern in Florida.

Five bond types in NC: (1) Written Promise — sign and go, no money. (2) Custody Release — someone signs and assumes responsibility. (3) Unsecured Bond — pay only if you fail to appear. (4) Secured Bond — pay before release, cash or property. (5) No Bond — you stay in custody (capital cases, DV with firearm, repeat offenders).

Florida uses similar types, often with an automatic bond schedule, plus a First Appearance hearing within 24 hours.

A bondsman charges 10–15% of the bond, non-refundable. Miss court and your family loses the collateral. ICE TRAP — and this is critical for non-citizens: a criminal bond does NOT release an ICE detainer. You can

post bond, walk out of county jail, and ICE takes you straight into immigration custody. You need separate immigration counsel for the ICE bond. Two systems. One firm that handles both.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Real questions from our intake line — answered in plain English.

Q. Can police search my phone without a warrant?

No. Under *Riley v. California*, 573 U.S. 373 (2014), the Supreme Court held that police need a warrant to search the contents of a cell phone — even after a lawful arrest. Do not unlock your phone. Do not give your passcode. Say: I do not consent to a search of my phone.

Q. If I am innocent, won't talking to police help me?

No. Police build cases — they do not decide them. Innocent people talk themselves into charges every day by guessing at facts, contradicting themselves under stress, or trying to be helpful. Only the prosecutor decides what to file, and only after charges. Stay silent. Let your lawyer talk.

Q. Do I have to identify myself to police?

It depends on the state and the situation. In NC and FL, during a lawful traffic stop you must provide license, registration, and proof of insurance. Outside of that, give name and date of birth if asked, then invoke the three sentences. Do not volunteer anything else.

Q. What if police already started questioning me before I asked for a lawyer?

It is never too late. Under *Edwards v. Arizona*, the moment you say I want a lawyer, all questioning must stop. Anything you already said may be challenged later with a motion to suppress. Stop talking immediately and call us — 1-844-967-3536.

Q. Will asking for a lawyer make me look guilty?

No. It is your constitutional right under the Sixth Amendment, and a jury never hears that you asked. Police are trained to tell you the opposite to keep you talking. That is a tactic, not the truth. Asking for a lawyer is the smartest thing an innocent person can do.

FREE HELP IN NC + FL · PUBLIC, VETTED, ANSWERS 24/7

Free Help You Can Trust

Public defenders, civil rights orgs, expungement clinics — free or sliding-scale.

Everyone deserves a defense. These are the people who provide it even when you cannot pay.

01 NC Indigent Defense Services (IDS)

Coordinates appointed counsel statewide in NC. Start here if you cannot afford a lawyer in any NC county.

(919) 354-7200 · <https://www.ncids.org>

02 Florida Public Defender Association

Directory of every elected Public Defender by judicial circuit in Florida. Find the office for your county.

(850) 488-6850 · <https://www.flpda.org>

03 ACLU of North Carolina

Civil rights legal help — police misconduct, unlawful searches, First Amendment, protest arrests.

(919) 834-3466 · <https://www.acluofnorthcarolina.org>

04 ACLU of Florida

Civil rights legal help statewide — police misconduct, ICE detention, voting rights, protest arrests.

(786) 363-2700 · <https://www.aclufl.org>

05 Legal Aid of North Carolina

Free civil legal help for low-income North Carolinians, including expunction clinics and re-entry support.

1-866-219-5262 · <https://www.legalaidnc.org>

06 National Lawyers Guild — Mass Defense Hotline

24/7 hotline for protesters and activists who have been arrested or detained. Connects you to volunteer counsel.

(212) 679-2811 · <https://www.nlg.org/massdefense>

07 NC Justice Center — Second Chance / Expunction

Statewide guidance on clearing eligible NC records under Second Chance Act (G.S. §15A-145.5).

(919) 856-2570 · <https://www.ncjustice.org>

08 Florida Rights Restoration Coalition

Helps Floridians with felony records restore voting rights, find re-entry support, and pay court costs.

(407) 901-7141 · <https://floridarrc.com>

09 National Domestic Violence Hotline

24/7 confidential support for domestic violence survivors, including safety planning and legal referrals.

1-800-799-7233 · <https://www.thehotline.org>

10 Vasquez Law Firm — Free Consultation

Bilingual criminal + immigration coordination. We take the call when you cannot pay anyone else.

1-844-967-3536 · <https://vasquezlawfirm.com/contact>

BEFORE YOU CALL US · PREP IN 30 MIN · ANSWERS IN 15

Before You Call Us (or Anyone Else)

15 minutes of prep = a real defense strategy in the first meeting.

When you walk in with this list ready, we can give you a defense — not a question list.

- 1.** 1. Charging documents — citation, summons, arrest warrant, indictment, or magistrate's order of commitment. Bring every paper, front and back.
- 2.** 2. Date, time, and exact location of arrest or first police contact — street address, intersection, mile marker, or business name.
- 3.** 3. Names and badge numbers of every officer involved — including the officer who pulled you over, the officer who searched, and the officer who booked you.
- 4.** 4. Witnesses to the incident — yours and theirs. Full names, phone numbers, and what each person saw or heard.
- 5.** 5. Whether Miranda was read — the exact words used, when they were said (before or after questioning), and whether you said you understood.
- 6.** 6. Whether you said anything to police — every word, including small talk, jokes, or apologies. Write it down even if it feels harmless.
- 7.** 7. Whether you consented to any search — of your car, phone, pockets, bag, home, or hotel room. If you said yes, write what they asked and what you said.
- 8.** 8. Any property seized or evidence taken — vehicle, phone, cash, documents, weapons, drugs, electronics. Get the property receipt.
- 9.** 9. Your full criminal history — NC, FL, every other state, federal, juvenile, and any out-of-country record. Dismissed cases count. Honesty here protects you later.
- 10.** 10. Your immigration status — citizen, LPR, visa, DACA, TPS, asylum pending, undocumented. Critical for Padilla v. Kentucky analysis. We do not report status to ICE.

- 11.** 11. Bond/bail amount, conditions of release, and your next court date — bring the bond paperwork and any release order.

- 12.** 12. Names of co-defendants or alleged accomplices — and whether you have spoken to them since the arrest (even one text matters).



5 minutes with police can cost 5 years of your life.

If you have been questioned, charged, or arrested — call before you say another word.
Free, bilingual, confidential. We answer 24/7.

1-844-YO-PELEO

(1-844-967-3536) · vasquezlawfirm.com/contact

GO DEEPER — THE FULL GUIDE

This is the action checklist. For the full strategy — every form, every deadline, every rule — read the comprehensive guide:

Criminal Defense Guide

<https://www.vasquezlawnc.com/guides/criminal-defense>

CITE THIS GUIDE

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