

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

## IF THE FBI APPROACHES YOU: STAY SILENT, CALL CAIR

**“I do not wish to speak without an attorney present. Can I please have your business card? Thank you, goodbye.”**

**An FBI agent has called you or knocked on your door. You may feel scared, overwhelmed, and unsure of what to do. This is what you should know.**

**1. You always have the right to remain silent.**

You are not obligated to answer questions from an FBI agent. Your refusal to talk to the FBI agent may not be used against you.

**“I do not wish to speak without an attorney present.”**

**2. You always have the right to request an attorney.** You should refuse to answer questions until you have a chance to speak with an attorney. Even if you have already started talking, you can stop at any time. Tell the agent you do not want to answer any more questions without a lawyer present.

**“I do not wish to answer any more questions without any attorney present. Can I have your card? I will have my lawyer follow up with you.”**

**3. Stay silent and never, ever lie.** Lying to FBI agents can be a crime. It is a felony to make a false statement to an FBI agent if it is related to an investigation.

**4. Speaking to an FBI agent is dangerous, even if you think you’re telling the truth.** Sometimes, inadvertently mixing up details—like the dates of your travel or when you last spoke to a particular individual—can be used against you in a criminal prosecution. An attorney will work with you to make sure this doesn’t happen.

**Stay safe: never speak with the FBI alone!**

**5. Asking for an attorney does not make you seem more suspicious.** Some people mistakenly believe they can prove they are innocent by speaking to the FBI. This is extremely risky. The FBI has racially profiled, surveilled, and engaged in other abuses in Muslim communities after 9/11.

You should speak to an attorney before speaking to the FBI. An attorney can assess your situation and advise you on the best way forward. If you speak to the FBI without legal assistance, you could expose yourself and your family and friends to harm.