

## Immigration: Avoid fraudulent legal services & scams

In need of hope and assurance that one's immigration status will improve can leave us vulnerable to fraud and scams. These situations leave families worse than before, having lost money to these scams and exposing themselves to disastrous consequences including deportation.

### Avoid Fraud and Scams by following these tips!

- **Avoid promises that are too good to be true!** No one, not even attorneys, can promise a guaranteed result.
- **Do not send money or share your case information with anyone you do not know.** Verify who is contacting you! If they claim to be from a non-profit, please call the non-profit to verify.
- **Be careful if they only accept cash and cannot give you a receipt.** Ask for a receipt for every payment you make. Refusal to give a receipt is a red flag!
- **Get a written legal services agreement or contract before you make any payments.** The contract should list what services will be provided and the price for those services. Be clear on how refunds will be processed.
- **Never sign blank documents or forms that have false information.** You must check that the information on your immigration forms are true and correct, there are serious consequences for false or incorrect information.
- **Do not be afraid to ask questions.** You should be clear on the risks and benefits of your case, as well as the legal process.
- **Ask for proof that your case paperwork has been filed.** Immigration provides a receipt or proof of filing, and you have the right to be given a copy of this receipt.
- **Work with trusted legal service providers.** Avoid working with **notarios** who are not authorized to provide legal services or legal advice. Instead, work with licensed attorneys, Accredited Representatives, and Immigration Consultants who can provide their credentials.

## We're here to help!

### Free & Low-Cost Immigration Legal Services:

#### **Catholic Charities of Yolo-Solano:**

- Vallejo: 707-644-8909
- Woodland: 530-214-4081
- <https://www.ccyoso.org/immigration-legal-services>

#### **Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services:**

- 916-313-7604
- <https://www.sacramentofoodbank.org/immigration>

#### **Northern Valley Catholic Social Service:**

- 530-241-0552

### **Office of Catholic Charities & Social Concerns**

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