



## Immigration Court 101

English

In **immigration court**, you will have an opportunity to defend your case before an immigration judge and show why you should be permitted to remain in the United States. If you lose your case in immigration court, you can file an appeal.

**You could be deported, if:**

- you lose in immigration court and do not appeal,
- you appeal and lose.

### Who will be at the immigration court?



- There will be an **Immigration Judge** who will determine whether you are permitted to stay in the United States.
- There will be an **attorney** who works for the government. Their job is to represent the United States government. They do not work for you.
- **If you have an attorney**, they are always allowed to be in the courtroom with you, and can call and visit you.

**Remember: The government will not provide you with an attorney, but you may hire an attorney to represent you in court.**

### Checking your immigration court date

- To check your court date, you will need your A-number. (Example: A 000-000-000). This number is assigned by the government and appears on immigration documents.
- Check information for your hearing by using the Automated Case Information system. Below are two ways:
  - Call the Hotline at 1-800-898-7180. Enter your A-number and follow instructions from the operator.
  - Visit the webpage: <https://acis.eoir.justice.gov/en/>. Type your A-number into the search box and click "Enter."



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### Changing your in-person hearing to a virtual/telephonic hearing

If you want to change your in-person immigration court hearing to an online or telephonic format, you must file a formal request with the court. It is important to submit the request as early as possible before the next scheduled hearing date. In doing so, you must remember to **consult an attorney**.



- Legal advice should come from an attorney, who can assist with preparing and filing the necessary paperwork correctly.
- You will need to file a Motion to Change Hearing Format with the court. The immigration judge will review the request and notify you or your attorney of the decision.
- If the motion is approved, the hearing will be online; if it is denied, the hearing will remain in-person.

### Finding Legal Representation

In recent months, there have been reports of immigration enforcement activity inside immigration courts. You may wish to have a plan in place in the event you are detained. If you have questions, speak to an attorney.

**For free and confidential immigration legal help call the MOIA  
Immigration Legal Support Hotline:**



**1-800-354-0365**

Monday to Friday, 9AM to 6PM [Interpretation is available](#)

Each immigration court has a list of free or low-cost immigration legal service providers nearby.

Scan the QR code to look up the list of free immigration legal organizations near your court in advance or visit:  
[www.justice.gov/eoir/list-pro-bono-legal-service-providers](http://www.justice.gov/eoir/list-pro-bono-legal-service-providers)

