

FREE IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

for California Community College students, faculty, & staff

As an immigrant college student, you are often balancing many things that go beyond what your peers experience. If you are seeking support with navigating the complexities of the U.S. immigration system, you likely have lots of questions about working with an immigration attorney. *“Are they qualified? Are they competent? Are they reliable?”*



Luckily, students, faculty, and staff at California Community Colleges can receive **FREE immigration legal support**. This way, you can focus on your education and not worry about paying expensive attorney fees or searching endlessly for reliable sources. What's more, students seeking DACA renewals or citizenship can get their application fees covered, too.



HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

- **EASILY SCHEDULE YOUR FIRST MEETING:** Students can visit <https://FINDYOURALLY.com>, find their campus, and sign up for their consultation appointment with a trusted legal services provider.
- **CONVENIENTLY WORK WITH YOUR ALLY:** Whether you attend your classes in person or online, support will remain unaffected. Legal practitioners are equipped to meet with you in person or in a safe and secure virtual environment. They are also committed to seeing your case from beginning to end – regardless of when the affiliation with the college you attend ends. This is vitally useful, as immigration laws can change and create opportunities later.
- **GET A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES:** After you get an eligibility screening to find out what you may or may not be eligible for, common immigration legal support offered to students includes, but is not limited to, DACA renewals, family-based petitions, naturalization requests, and more.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR FIRST CONSULTATION:

A great first step is to remember that legal services providers are there to support **you**. They are not immigration agency officers or judges in a court but are your **allies** in your corner.

IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE THIS PARTNERSHIP, HERE ARE A FEW HELPFUL TIPS TO GET SET UP FOR SUCCESS:

✓ **BE ON TIME AND BE RESPONSIVE.** Since immigration law is so complex it is up to you to be diligent (e.g., responding to emails in a timely manner, gathering documents your attorney is asking for, get to meetings on time, etc.) so that you can get the best quality support and remain on track.



✓ **FINE-TUNE YOUR ORGANIZATION SKILLS & BE HONEST.** Just as a doctor is best equipped to diagnose their patients when they know their health and family history, an immigration attorney is also only as effective as the background you share. Do your best to gather the documents they ask for and keep them organized in a folder or binder and in a safe place. Official paperwork like

school records, court documents, tax filings, and more can be vital to understanding and making a case for you with immigration officials so the more you have, the clearer the picture will become. If you don't have a document or aren't sure about what they're asking for, it never hurts to ask!



Tip: There are few tools as simple and effective as checklists. Use them to get yourself organized along the way. Plus, it feels great to cross items off as you make progress!

✓ **DO YOUR HOMEWORK.** Everyone has their own story and circumstances and, because immigration is so case-specific, you will only have a truly clear picture when you've spoken with an expert. It is critical that you commit to gathering the pieces you can before chatting with your attorney. Once you've scheduled your first meeting, make sure you keep an eye out for any follow-up communication you might get so you identify what those pieces are and so you don't miss anything important. **Remember** – if you're unclear about anything, do not hesitate to ask. Immigration law is complex so there is no such thing as a dumb question.



Tip: Save their email address once you've received initial correspondence so future messages don't get filtered to spam/junk or blocked. Do the same with phone numbers!

Finally, it is important to note that there could very well be no direct pathway for you to change your status and find a meaningful legal remedy. Immigration law is very exclusionary, flawed, and riddled with injustice. As such, it is nearly impossible for any attorney to ease anxieties with confident promises, much less guarantees, about your case. On the other hand, successful cases that lead to a safer, more permanent status can be unimaginably life-changing for immigrants. The form and direction your path will take can only be mapped out once you take your first step and sign up for a consultation. Whatever the length of your journey, we hope you join us in believing that **the pursuit is 100% worth it.**

<https://www.FINDYOURALLY.com>

