



A MESSAGE FROM ANTHONY A. SCARPINO, JR.
Westchester County District Attorney

Dear Friends,

Westchester County is home to a large immigrant population. Through unique traditions, culture and history, immigrants have contributed to what makes Westchester County so beautiful and diverse. Unfortunately, too often, members of the immigrant community are victims of crimes of economic exploitation or crimes of violence. Many times these victims are afraid to come forward due to their immigration status. In response to this fear, I have created the Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA), which will assist our various immigrant communities in navigating the criminal justice system. With the creation of the OIA, there will be one point of contact within the District Attorney's Office where immigrants will be able to receive help. Victimized immigrants may report any type of crime, including violent crimes, human trafficking, domestic violence and fraud. The emphasis will be on making the process easier for immigrants to come forward to be a witness to a crime and not fear that they will be deported.

My goal is to provide better coordination of these prosecutions and provide greater outreach to the immigrant community. Anyone who believes that he or she may have been the victim of a crime is encouraged to call the Westchester County District Attorney's Office of Immigrant Affairs hotline at 914-995-1616.



IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS

Know Your Rights



Office of the District Attorney

RICHARD J. DARONCO COURTHOUSE
111 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
White Plains, NY 10601
(914) 995-3414
westchesterda.net



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Westchester County District Attorney

How We Can Help You

Regardless of status, OIA will assist members of the immigrant community who have fallen victim of crimes to obtain justice within our legal system. The OIA will ensure that complaints received are directed to the appropriate bureau within our office. As part of this initiative, we will be undertaking outreach and education efforts, and working with advocates to spread the word about the new OIA. In addition to examining crimes targeting the immigrant community, the OIA will serve as a liaison to foster cooperation—we want victims and witnesses to work with us to investigate and prosecute cases. OIA will assist members of Westchester’s immigrant communities navigate and access the criminal justice system.

The Westchester County District Attorney’s Office of Immigrant Affairs is committed to helping all crime victims regardless of immigration status or language spoken.

Know Your Rights!

Immigrants are often exploited for their vulnerability and are often unfamiliar with their rights.

You have the right...

...to live your life without being victimized by anyone.

...to report a crime committed against you at your local police station without being turned away.

...to have the police or the District Attorney investigate a crime committed against you without fear of repercussions, even if you don’t speak English, you don’t understand the laws of the U.S. or you are residing in the U.S. without citizenship.

Common schemes targeting immigrant residents:

- “Notarios”, or others that represent themselves as attorneys who can provide legal advice or promise to process immigration paperwork.
- Individuals pretending to be ICE agents that promise special treatment or demand payments in order to avoid deportation.
- Persons or business that promise to provide employment or work visas that they cannot provide
- False investment opportunities.
- Sale of fake government documents, such as social security cards and passports.
- Businesses that hire immigrants to work on construction projects but fail to pay wages.

Westchester County District Attorney’s Office of Immigrant Affairs

Hotline (914) 995-1616

E-Mail: OIA@westchesterda.net

For more information, visit our website www.westchesterda.net

Help is Available!

In the case of a life-threatening emergency, call 911!

Additional Resources

For individuals who believe that they have been the victim of a fraud or scam, find out if someone is authorized to practice law:

Online: NYS Office of Court Administration Attorney Search <http://iapps.courts.state.ny.us/attorney/AttorneySearch>

By mail: New York State Unified Court System, Office of Court Administration, 25 Beaver Street, Room 840, New York NY 10004

By Phone: (212) 428-2800

To obtain a referral for legal and social service providers, such as immigration services, interpreter and translation services, labor rights and law services and benefits counseling:

New York State Office for New Americans confidential and anonymous hotline 1-800-566-7636

New York State Office for New Americans www.newamericans.ny.gov

To find out the status of Immigration paperwork: United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) 1-800-375-5283

