



# Working with the Undocumented What to Do; What to Avoid

*Adapted from the Law Offices of Michael Boyle*  
[www.immigrantcenter.com](http://www.immigrantcenter.com)

- ✓ Encourage clients to remain in the United States and not to travel.
- ✓ Clients should not use false documents. TIN numbers, cash, independent contractors should be utilized instead.
- ✓ Discourage clients from driving, especially without documentation.
- ✓ Clients should avoid traveling in border states, especially Maine and Vermont, or through Phoenix, Las Vegas, or San Diego airports. Travel to Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands is also unsafe for the undocumented.
- ✓ Encourage clients to be wary of fraud and smuggling to bring relatives to the United States.
- ✓ Beware of individuals who offer a fast, easy way to legalize a client's status. Legalization is very difficult, slow, and complicated.
- ✓ Warn clients about *notarios*, consultants, and travel agents who offer immigration services. These are very dangerous.
- ✓ Limit client's contact with the INS/DHS.
- ✓ Hire a criminal lawyer and an immigration lawyer for any arrest more serious than speeding.

*Above all, be an advocate for your client's health care, housing, and basic needs. One agency which tackles these needs regardless of immigration status is Greater Hartford Legal Aid ([www.ghla.org](http://www.ghla.org)), or (860) 541-5000.*

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