



What Do You Do If You Need Legal Help in the U.S.?

HERE IS A QUICK GUIDE TO HELP YOU:

1. Know When to Talk to an Immigration Attorney

- If you violate your immigration status.
- If you're applying to the U.S. government (e.g., visa, status change).
- If you have trouble entering the U.S.
- If you're involved with police or legal issues (especially drugs, alcohol, or crime).

2. Why It's Important

- Legal issues that seem minor for U.S. citizens can be serious for international students.
- Immigration problems can affect your ability to stay in the U.S.

3. How to Find the Good Immigration Attorney

- Look for attorneys who are members of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). [See the website](#)
- Use the [AILA online directory](#) to search by location and legal expertise.
- Check reviews: Look at sites like Google, or Yelp to read about other clients' experiences.
- Option to consult with attorneys listed on the [Dashew Center website](#) in this page. Visit the [LACBA](#) for more.

4. Set Up a Consultation

- Many attorneys offer free or low-cost consultations.
- Ask these questions during the meeting:
- Have they handled cases like yours before?
- Are they clear and easy to understand?
- What is the cost? Hourly or flat fee? Time estimate?

5. Get a Written Contract

- Always sign a written agreement.
- Read it carefully and ask questions if anything is unclear.

6. Find a Specialist If Needed

- For deportation issues: look for a immigration attorney that specializes in deportation
- For criminal issues: you may need two attorneys—one for criminal law and one for immigration law.

7. If You're Not Happy with the Attorney

- It's okay to find a different one.
- It's important to work with someone you trust and feel comfortable with.