

# PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST IMMIGRATION FRAUD.

Notarios are **NOT** lawyers.



Protect yourself from immigration scams and fraud. Be cautious of “notarios” or others who claim they can guarantee results or offer legal services without proper authorization.

**The Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection will never inquire about immigration status.**



## WARNING SIGNS:

- Guarantees of immigration results, work permits, visas, or legal status changes.
- Pressure to pay now, before the laws change.
- Businesses that require payment in cash, gift cards, or cryptocurrency.
- Fast approval promises.
- Texts or messages claiming to be a legal or government representative.



## WHAT NOT TO DO:

- Never hire a “notario,” “notary,” or “notary public” to assist with your immigration case.
- Use anyone who you have not verified to be a licensed attorney or accredited representative.
- Pay large fees upfront.
- Pay for services without receiving a receipt or contract.
- Trust anyone who won’t put details in writing or give clear answers.



## WHAT TO DO:

- Always ask questions and take your time. If something feels wrong, stop.
- Ask for a written agreement of services to be provided that is signed by the provider, and keep the signed copy for your records.
- Get copies of everything and keep your original documents safe.
- Request a receipt that includes the name of the provider, the date, the amount you paid, and the service you paid for.

## REPORT IMMIGRATION FRAUD & GET HELP

To understand your options, report fraud, or for more information, contact one of the following trusted resources:

- **Ayuda:** 240-594-0600
- **We Are CASA:** 866-765-2272
- **The People’s Law Library of Maryland:**  
[www.peoples-law.org/notario-fraud](http://www.peoples-law.org/notario-fraud)
- **Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center:** 240-777-4940
- **Office of Consumer Protection:** 240-777-3636