



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM ONLINE IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY SCAMS

Beware of scammers falsely claiming to be legitimate attorneys.

The NMDOJ, along with the State Bar of New Mexico, is warning New Mexicans of **scammers using social media to pose as legitimate immigration attorneys.**

The Scam:

- **Scammers are contacting** “potential clients” online via social media platforms like TikTok, WhatsApp, Facebook and more.
- These **scammers are using REAL names** of legitimate attorneys, along with their REAL license numbers to “prove” their legitimacy.
- **Scammers are requiring payment** via gift cards, bitcoin, Venmo and more - and also giving faulty advice that leads to missed immigration appointments or hearings, potentially leading to **DETENTION OR DEPORTATION.**

Tips for Spotting Scammers:



- **An attorney who reaches out** on social media is likely fraudulent.
 - In New Mexico, it is a violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct for an attorney to contact an individual directly to offer paid services.
- **Anyone asking for money via gift cards, bitcoin or apps like Venmo or Zelle** is likely fraudulent.
- **Anyone offering a price too good to be true** is likely fraudulent.
- Look out for **imposter websites**, for example, any legitimate federal website will end in “.gov”

When Working With an Immigration Attorney:

ALWAYS

- ✓ Thoroughly review contracts to understand services
- ✓ Keep copies of all agreements
- ✓ Get receipts for all payments
- ✓ Review any applications or forms submitted before signing

NEVER

- ✗ Fall for someone rushing you for payment or threatening deportation.
- ✗ Sign blank documents
- ✗ Give anyone your original documents, only copies when necessary.
- ✗ Pay for U.S. government immigration forms. They are available online, for free, at [USCIS.gov/file-online](https://uscis.gov/file-online).

For help assessing an attorney's legitimacy, contact State Bar of New Mexico:
(505) 797-6000

Note: Because immigration attorneys are not required to be licensed in N.M. to practice immigration law in the state, there may be legitimate attorneys the State Bar of NM does not have in its database.

RESOURCES

For additional resources, visit page 2.





New Mexico
Department
of Justice



State Bar of
New Mexico
Est. 1886

IMMIGRATION RESOURCE LIST

Contact the below resources for specific immigration questions.

Verify & Report Fraud

State Bar of New Mexico

Verify an attorney's license or report concerns.
www.sbnm.org | (505) 797-6000

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

File a consumer fraud complaint.
www.reportfraud.ftc.gov | 1-877-382-4357

Consulate of Mexico in Albuquerque

Provides assistance to Mexican nationals, including referrals to trusted legal resources and help addressing fraud.
consulmex.sre.gob.mx/albuquerque | (505) 247-4177

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

Access official immigration forms for free.
uscis.gov/file-online

Trusted Immigration Legal Services

New Mexico Immigrant Law Center (NMILC)

(Albuquerque & Santa Fe)
Low-cost and free immigration legal services.
nmilc.org | (505) 247-1023

Catholic Charities of Central New Mexico

(Albuquerque, Santa Fe)
Provides immigration legal services.
www.ccasfnm.org/immigration | (505) 724-4670

Catholic Charities of Southern New Mexico (Las Cruces)

Provides immigration legal services in Southern New Mexico.
www.catholiccharitiesdlc.org | (575) 527-0500

Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains (Albuquerque, Las Cruces)

Provides refugee resettlement and immigration legal services.
www.lfsrm.org | (505) 933-7032 (ABQ) | 575-265-0836 (Las Cruces)

Contigo Immigrant Justice - formerly Santa Fe Dreamers Project (Santa Fe & Albuquerque)
Provides free legal services to immigrants, with a focus on humanitarian immigration and deportation defense.
contigojustice.org | (505) 490-2789

Community-Based Organizations

El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos

(Albuquerque)
Immigrant rights and worker support.
www.elcentronm.org | (505) 246-1627

Somos Un Pueblo Unido (Statewide)

Immigrant-led organization offering advocacy, worker rights support, and community resources.
www.somosunpueblounido.org | (505) 424-7832

Encuentro (Albuquerque)

Education and resources for immigrant families.
www.encuentronm.org | (505) 247-2920

New Mexico Asian Family Center (NMAFC)

(Albuquerque)
Culturally specific services for Asian immigrant communities.
nmafc.org | (505) 717-2877

Enlace Comunitario (Albuquerque)

Supports immigrant and Spanish-speaking survivors of domestic violence.
enlacenm.org | (505) 246-8972

Casa Reina – Sisters of our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Joseph (Gallup)

Offers housing and support services for immigrant women and families.
cmswr.org/community/sisters-of-our-lady-of-guadalupe-and-st-joseph/ | (505) 722-5511

For a full list of recognized organizations, check the updated roster reports from the U.S. Department of Justice Recognition & Accreditation (R&A) Program:
justice.gov/eoir/recognition-accreditation-roster-reports

