

BEWARE OF THE NOTARIOS

Immigrant is approached by a sleazy character/false Immigration consultant with sign that says Honesta Papeles.

NOTARIO: Hey, Yo soy Honesta Papeles! Su notario del pueblo, sirviendo a la comunidad desde 10 años! My name is Ms. Honest Papers! I've been proudly serving the community for 10 years! Hey are you trying to get legalized? All that paperwork is so confusing, verdad? Todo es muy confuse, verdad? Don't worry, that's what I'm here for! Yo soy tu amiga! I can help you do all your paperwork...Yo puedo ayudarte hacer todo lo que necesitas, arreglar todos tus documentos, llenar tus aplicaciones, de todo!!!!

IMMIGRANT: I don't know. No sé. Are you a lawyer or with the BIA? ¿Eres licenciada?

NOTARIO: Don't worry - you can trust me, I've been serving this community for the last 10 years and know exactly what you need. No te preocupes hombre...podes confiar en mi..He servido a la comunidad desde 10 años. Who do you go to en México para ayuda? Los notarios, pues! I'm just trying to help you out like I've helped out your compadres.

IMMIGRANT: Well, OK....aquí son todos mis papeles....

Notario is very happy, gets immigrant to sign paperwork. Freeze. Notario walks in a circle and changes sign from Honesta Papeles to ICE. Immigrant approaches with folder of documents.

IMMIGRANT: Here are all my papers to be a legal resident of the United States of America.

ICE agent looks through papers: This part is wrong. Está equivocada. Sorry you've lost your chance. Ya perdiste tu chance.

IMMIGRANT: ¿Puedo volver a aplicar? Can I reapply?

ICE: Nope! In fact we're going to deport you. Take em! Te vamos a deportar. ¡Lléveselo!

THE END

Debrief:

What did you see? Have you or anyone you know ever been approached by a Notario or someone you suspected wasn't legit? What are the consequences of using their services? What should you do instead?