
Criminal records

If you have a criminal record, you might not be eligible to enter the United States. Under U.S. law, a Canadian pardon does not cancel a criminal conviction.

If you need further information, you should contact one of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (USINS) ports of entry listed at the end of this booklet. If you are ineligible to enter the United States and wish to apply for a waiver of ineligibility, you will be asked to complete Form I-192, "Advance Permission to Enter the United States." It may take several months to process your application. Ordinarily, a Canadian citizen convicted of an impaired driving violation need not file Form I-192.

If you left the United States to avoid military service during the Viet Nam war and have not since regularized your status, there might be an outstanding warrant for your arrest or you might be ineligible for U.S. entry. If in doubt you should check with the nearest USINS port of entry listed at the end of this booklet.

U.S. ports of entry are computerized and connected to a centralized data base. Information is readily available on criminal convictions in both Canada and the United States. Even though you may have entered the United States without hindrance in the past, you could run into difficulty if your record shows a criminal conviction.