Dual Nationality

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Some Canadians may have U.S. as well as Canadian citizenship through birth in the United States or through naturalization or descent. Although this is not likely to create problems — and in fact may solve some — it is wise for you to understand your status under U.S. law.

Canadians who are also U.S. citizens should always identify themselves as U.S. citizens when entering the United States. For information on dual nationality, consult the "Dual Nationality" section of the American Citizen Information Services Web site (www.amcits.com) or contact the U.S. consulate serving your area in Canada.

For more information on dual citizenship, consult our booklet *Dual Citizenship:* What Travellers Should Know.

Criminal Records

If you have a criminal record, no matter how minor or how long ago the offence, you may be refused entry to the United States. There may also be problems in transit through U.S. airports. Under U.S. law, a pardon issued by Canadian authorities is not recognized for purposes of entry into the United States.

If you have a criminal record, you should contact one of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) ports of entry well in advance of travel to the United States. If you are ineligible to enter the United States, you may apply for a waiver of ineligibility. This will involve completing Form I-192, "Advance Permission to Enter the United States." There is a fee and it may take several months to process your application.

Waiver application forms are available from any port of entry to the United States, any preclearance site in Canada, the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa or one of the U.S. consulates in Canada.

U.S. ports of entry are computerized and connected to a centralized database. 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

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