



Judicial Process

Never assume that the legal system of the country you're visiting is the same as Canada's. "Innocent until proven guilty" isn't a universally recognized idea. In some countries, you may not even have the right to legal representation or a trial in your mother tongue.

Some countries don't recognize or respect religious freedom, freedom of association, speech or the press, or equality of the sexes. For instance, guilt by association is presumed in some countries. This means that you may be charged simply for being in the company of a person suspected or found guilty of a crime.

Even if you're an innocent bystander at a demonstration or riot, you may be considered a participant and rounded up with those involved. **Your Canadian citizenship does not grant you immunity.**

If you do find yourself in an illegal situation, contact the nearest Canadian mission immediately. If you cannot do so yourself, have someone else do it for you.

Flight Reconfirmation

At each stopover, reconfirm onward reservations to avoid being stranded. You can usually get updated flight information 72 hours in advance of your departure.

Mail

If you are travelling for an extended period of time, you can arrange to have your mail sent to a post office box or, where possible, to the nearest Canadian mission. In the latter case, the mission will hold on to letter-size mail (not parcels) for you to pick up in person. This mail cannot be forwarded to another address.



Travelling to the United States

Canadians make more than 50 million trips each year to the United States. Because of our close relationship with our neighbours to the south, we sometimes forget that we're visiting another country. The same preparations should be made for visiting the United States as for travelling to any foreign country. And it should be remembered that their laws and customs are different from ours at home.

Always carry your Canadian passport, citizenship or birth certificate when you're travelling to the United States. A driver's licence is not valid proof of citizenship. When you're returning by air from the United States, you will have to prove that you're a Canadian citizen, otherwise you may not be allowed to board. We urge you to carry a Canadian passport, as it is the best form of identification.

Single parents travelling with children often need proof of custody or letters from the other parent authorizing travel. Kidnapping is high on the U.S. Immigration officials' agenda, and not having this documentation may prevent you from entering or continuing your trip.

The United States' Zero Tolerance Policy imposes severe penalties for the possession of even a small amount of illegal drugs. U.S. Customs has confiscated thousands of motor vehicles and vessels since the implementation of this policy in 1988.

Even prescription drugs and syringes used for medical reasons come under intense scrutiny. Keep all prescription drugs in their original container. Check with your pharmacist to find out which over-the-counter drugs in Canada require a prescription in the United States. Carry a medical certificate for your syringes, and declare them to U.S. Customs officials.

When travelling to the United States, keep in mind that:

- ❖ As soon as you stop at the U.S. border, you are subject to U.S. law. Immigration laws in the United States refuse entry to, among others, people with a criminal record.