

- law (e.g., narcotics offences)
2. the experience of the individual in defending Canadians or other foreigners (track record/success rate)
 3. reputation
 4. contacts
 5. ability to converse in your mother tongue
 6. the range of fees in relation to your ability to pay
 7. willingness to accept payment on a fee for service basis

Depending upon circumstances, Canadian consular officials in Ottawa or abroad may be in a position to assist in facilitating communication between prisoners or their families and the lawyer selected. They cannot however, become materially involved in any way.

Prisoner Services

The following sections set out briefly the kinds of assistance that the department will and will not provide. Those it **will not** provide apply to all countries; those it **will** provide, and their frequency and extent, will depend on the conditions in the country concerned and the particular needs of the prisoner and his or her family. It is in any case unlikely that any one prisoner would receive all of the services listed below.

a) the department/missions abroad

- WILL notify you of the arrest or detention of a relative **if requested** by the person detained;
- WILL visit or maintain contact with the prisoner, although the frequency will depend upon the location of the prison, the conditions within the prison, the number of Canadians incarcerated, as well as the size of the consular staff and competing priorities at the Canadian mission. In countries where the prison conditions are good and communication with the outside world is relatively easy, visits may be made only on request;
- WILL convey messages to the prisoner if telephone or postal channels are impractical or unworkable;