

## LOST, STOLEN, OR DAMAGED PASSPORT

If your passport is lost or stolen while you are abroad, you must immediately report the incident to the local police and the nearest Canadian government office. Before a new passport can be issued, you must complete an application form, present documentary evidence of your Canadian citizenship (e.g., a birth or citizenship certificate), submit new photographs, pay the required fee, and complete a *Statutory Declaration concerning a Lost, Stolen, Damaged, Destroyed or Inaccessible Canadian Passport or Travel Document* form (PPTC 203).

If you regain possession of the passport that was reported lost or stolen, you must return it immediately to Passport Canada or, if you are abroad, to the nearest Canadian government office. Do not attempt to use the document for travel, as you will encounter difficulties.

There can be significant delays at passport checkpoints if your passport is damaged in any way. Airlines may prohibit you from boarding, and you could be refused entry or exit at border crossings. Passport Canada recommends that anyone with a damaged passport apply for a new one in order to avoid such incidents.



## CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Thousands of Canadians are currently imprisoned abroad for a wide range of offences. The laws and customs of other countries can be very different from those in Canada, and ignorance is no defence when a crime is committed.

While in a foreign country, you are subject to its laws and regulations. **Your Canadian citizenship offers no immunity.**

Canadians may be prosecuted in Canadian courts for certain acts committed against significant cultural sites and objects outside Canada. In addition to foreign laws protecting cultural heritage, Canadian law now prohibits the illegal export of cultural objects from certain countries, whether or not the object is brought to Canada. For more information, consult [www.canadianheritage.gc.ca/travel](http://www.canadianheritage.gc.ca/travel).

If you find yourself in trouble, Canadian consular officials abroad can provide a list of lawyers with the necessary expertise, contact your family and friends, and ensure you receive fair treatment **according to the standards of that country**. They cannot, however, wield any influence to reduce your sentence or fine.

## SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

It is illegal to have sexual relations with children, whether in Canada or abroad. Most countries vigorously enforce laws against the sexual exploitation of children. Canadians who are suspected of committing such acts at home or abroad can be charged under the Canadian Criminal Code (available at <http://laws.justice.gc.ca>). Those convicted face a penalty of up to 14 years' imprisonment. For more information, see the publication *Child Sex Tourism: It's a Crime* on our website.

## JUDICIAL PROCESS

Never assume that the legal system of another country is the same as at home. "Innocent until proven guilty" is not a universal principle. If you are accused of a crime, you may be detained for an indefinite period with no opportunity for bail pending a verdict. In certain countries, you may not have a right to legal representation or to a trial in your own language.

Some countries do not recognize or respect religious freedom; freedom of association, speech, or the press; or equality of the sexes. For instance, guilt by association is often presumed, and you may be charged just for being in the company of a person suspected or found guilty of a crime.

Even if you are an innocent bystander at a riot or demonstration, you may be considered a participant and be rounded up with those involved.

**If you do find yourself in legal trouble, contact the nearest Canadian government office at once.** If you cannot do so yourself, have someone else do it for you.

