

- * The mission **CAN** help you during emergencies, such as natural disasters and civil uprisings
- * The mission **CAN** direct you to the sources of information about local laws and regulations
- * The mission **CAN** inform relatives and friends of your arrest and try to ensure that legal rights and processes are extended to you consistent with the standards of the foreign country
- * The mission **CAN** try to ensure equitable treatment under local laws
- * The mission **CAN** provide lists of doctors and lawyers who have assisted Canadians in the past

BUT

- * The mission **CANNOT** set aside local laws if you are charged with an offence, or intervene in the judicial process of a foreign country
- * The mission **CANNOT** provide legal advice, post bail, or pay your personal bills or fines
- * The mission **CANNOT** extend services normally provided by travel agencies or financial institutions, such as cashing cheques or making travel arrangements
- * The mission **CANNOT** hold parcels or personal items for safe-keeping
- * The mission **CANNOT** provide translation services
- * The mission **CANNOT** help you find a job or obtain visas, licences or related permits
- * The mission **CANNOT** help you get a driver's licence, visas to other countries or residence permits
- * The mission **CANNOT** search for lost items

Canada does not have diplomatic or consular relations with certain countries, and therefore cannot provide normal consular services to Canadians travelling there. Those countries are Afghanistan, Cambodia, North Korea, Taiwan

and the so-called independent homelands in the Republic of South Africa.

Registration

If you are living in a foreign country, especially a developing country, or visiting it for a long time, we urge you to register at the Canadian mission there. You can register either by writing or visiting the mission.

Consular registration is particularly important in high-risk areas. Your registration card helps the mission locate you in any emergency. Remember to give the mission prompt notice of a change of address, or of your departure from the foreign country. The information given is strictly confidential.

For current news and possible risks about travel in dangerous and remote areas, please contact External Affairs and International Trade Canada before you leave.

- i) Write or call the Department's Consular Operations Division (OSS) in Ottawa at: (613) 996-4376.
- ii) If outside Canada, contact the nearest Canadian mission.

You may also listen to Radio Canada International (RCI) when you are abroad. RCI provides you with the latest news and broadcast messages from the Canadian government during emergency situations. A program schedule is included at the end of this guide.

Emergency Consular Services

Canadian missions abroad have an official on duty 24 hours a day to provide emergency consular assistance. After business hours, callers are usually asked by a recorded message to leave their name and phone number where they can be contacted, or are referred to a second number. The duty officer will call back upon receipt of the message. Such a system depends on the local communications system functioning effectively and on the caller leaving a clear message and being available to accept a return call. Duty officers worldwide are remarkably successful at providing emergency assistance to Canadians in all types of difficulty.