

The laws and customs of countries around the world can be very different from those in Canada. Ignorance of those laws is no defence.

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

Canadian consular staff abroad must also follow the rules of the host country. If you do find yourself in trouble, they can help you locate

Sexual Exploitation of Children

The Government of Canada has enacted legislation that permits the arrest and prosecution of Canadians in Canada for the sexual exploitation of children in other countries. Most countries are now enacting legislation, or more vigorously enforcing existing laws, concerning the sexual exploitation of children. Those convicted face a penalty of up to 14 years' imprisonment. For more information, see the Publications section of our Web site.

a lawyer, contact your family and friends, and ensure that you receive fair treatment **according to the standards of that country**. However, they cannot wield any influence to reduce your sentence or fine.

Judicial Process

Never assume that the legal system of the country you are visiting is the same as at home. "Innocent until proven guilty" is not a universally recognized concept. In some countries, you may not even have the right to legal representation or 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 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 are an innocent bystander at a demonstration or riot, you may be considered a participant and be rounded up with those involved. Your Canadian citizenship does not grant you immunity.

If you do find yourself in legal trouble, contact the nearest Canadian government office immediately.

If you cannot do so yourself, have someone else do it for you.

Mail

If you are travelling for an extended period of time, you can arrange to have your mail sent to a post office

When You Return

Departure Tax

Some countries impose a departure tax or service fee at the airport or point of departure. Before leaving, make sure you set aside enough money, in local funds, to pay this tax.

Canadian Food Inspection Agency: Be Aware and Declare

Every year, thousands of travellers fail to declare things like meat, cheese, animal hides, live birds, plants, fruits and their products. These items may carry pests or diseases that pose a risk to human, plant or animal health. Foreign pests or diseases could destroy Canada's crops and forests and endanger our livestock, threatening our ability to produce safe food.

Canadian law says you must declare all the plants and animals you bring back, as well as their products. It restricts and prohibits the entry of products that could harm Canada's agriculture and

box or, where possible, to the nearest Canadian government office. In the latter case, the office will hold on to letter-size mail (not parcels) for you to pick up in person. This mail cannot be forwarded to another address.

forestry or that pose a danger to human health and safety.

Before you leave Canada, contact the Canadian Food Inspection Agency or visit their Web site.

Pet Imports

Before bringing a live animal back to Canada, check the import requirements with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. For more information, consult the "Pet Imports" chapter under "Travellers" in the Consumer Centre section of the Agency's Web site or call one of their Import Service Centres.

Canadian Customs and Import Controls

You must declare everything you have purchased and acquired abroad, whether the items are for yourself or intended as gifts, as well as goods bought at a Canadian or foreign duty-free store. Keep your original receipts for possible inspection.