

Generally, the criteria for admissibility as a temporary visitor include, but are not limited to: proof of citizenship; evidence of residential, employment and/or educational ties to Canada; legitimate purpose for the trip; reasonable length of stay; and proof of financial support while in the United States. In a nutshell, this "test" helps determine whether you are travelling for legitimate reasons, have the financial resources for your travel and living expenses, and intend to return home. The U.S. official at the point of entry is the sole judge of your admissibility. Under U.S. law, as an alien detained at the border by Customs or Immigration, you do not have the right or privilege of contacting your lawyer. Visitors to the United States should be aware that the driver of a vehicle can be held responsible for the ineligibility of passengers, regardless of prior knowledge or association.

The permanent U.S. record created when a Canadian has been refused entry to the United States becomes part of a computerized database readily available at all land border and inland ports of entry, as well as at U.S.

For more information about recent changes in U.S. immigration policy, consult the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) Web site (www.uscis.gov).

Department of Homeland Security's Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) pre-clearance facilities in Canada. An initial refused entry does not necessarily mean you are banned from entering the United States in the future. At the time of refusal you will normally be advised of the requirements you have to meet to re-apply for entry (such as obtaining a "waiver" or producing documentation supporting your intention to return to Canada at the end of the trip). If, however, you attempt to enter the country at another port of entry without first trying to satisfy these requirements, you could be fined or have your vehicle seized, or both. There are appeal procedures, but they are prolonged, costly and unlikely to reverse the original decision. If you have a past criminal conviction, you could also be detained for deportation at a CIS detention centre.