

Seeking Assistance

Registering at a Canadian Mission

If your stay is longer than three months in one country, it is recommended that you formally register at the nearest Canadian mission. This will help us contact you in case of an emergency. Registration is voluntary and the information you provide is not shared with any other Canadian government department. Registration is not usually available in the countries of Western Europe, Australia, New Zealand or the United States.

In countries where Canada has no direct representation, there may be arrangements in place for you to register with another country's embassy or consulate. For instance, Canada has a formal reciprocal agreement with Australia.

Consular Assistance

Canada's 270 service points worldwide are ready to help you if needed. In some instances, there may be a fee for services.

What we can do for you:

- We can contact, at your request, your relatives or

friends and ask them to send you emergency funds.

- We can help you during emergencies such as natural disasters or civil and military uprisings.
- We can direct you to sources of information about local laws, regulations, cultural customs and how to obtain visas.
- We can assist with medical emergencies.
- We can replace passports.
- If you are arrested, we can try to ensure equitable treatment under local laws. At your request, we can inform relatives and friends about your arrest and try to ensure that legal rights and processes are extended to you consistent with the standards of the host country.
- If you wish, we can notify your next of kin regarding accidents or deaths and let them know whether, and how, they can help.

Although Canadian offices provide a wide variety of services to travelling Canadians, demand is such

that we restrict some services, especially those for which there are adequate alternatives available locally. Such services include making travel arrangements, transferring funds or paying local bills, storing or safekeeping personal effects or searching for lost items, doing translations, assisting with job hunts, obtaining visas for other countries and acquiring local permits or licences.

Check the "Canadian Diplomatic and Consular Missions Abroad" section for information on how to contact the Canadian mission(s) in the country you plan to visit.

Emergency Consular Services

Canadian missions offer 24-hour assistance. During non-office

hours, a telephone call you make to a mission will automatically be transferred to a consular officer in Ottawa, or you will be asked to leave a message on an answering machine. In either case, there will be a prompt response. If you leave a recorded message, make sure that it is clear and that you leave a telephone number or a full contact address. In addition, you can make a collect call to DFAIT in Ottawa, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at (613) 996-8885. You may wish to use the *Canada Direct* service if it is available.

In some locations, where Canada does not have a resident mission, the Australian and British missions will provide emergency services or contact the nearest Canadian mission on your behalf.

On the Road

Foreign Laws and Customs

When you are travelling in a foreign country, familiarize yourself with the way of life there. Respect that country's laws, religions, culture, class structure and economic conditions. Although you may not personally agree with some of the country's beliefs, remember that you are a visitor.

In many countries, appropriate attire – for both sexes – is very important. In some countries, laws govern what men and women can and cannot wear in public. Penalties for disobeying local laws can be quite severe.

Be especially respectful of temples, mosques, churches, synagogues and other religious sites. Many of