

The general approach of the Canadian consular service combines an emphasis on self-reliance, respect for privacy, and the provision of help where it is needed. To the extent possible, you should make every effort to maintain direct contact with the prisoner through normal channels. Consular officials, both in Ottawa and at diplomatic or consular missions abroad, will give advice and information; however, the range of other services will be determined by your own ability to provide support and assistance. In general, officials will provide a more comprehensive range of services when a Canadian is imprisoned in a country where it is difficult for family or friends to be of much assistance, or where the prison conditions warrant.

Liaison with Local Authorities

A non-Canadian charged with a criminal offence in Canada would be tried under Canadian criminal law in a Canadian court, and, if convicted, sentenced to time in a Canadian prison. Just as Canadians would not accept a foreign government interfering with the Canadian judicial process, the Government of Canada cannot interfere in the judicial affairs of another country.

That being said, the Government of Canada will make every effort to ensure that you receive equitable treatment under the local criminal justice system. It will ensure that you are not penalized for being a foreigner, and that you are neither discriminated against nor denied justice because you are Canadian. It cannot, however, seek preferential treatment for you, nor try to exempt you from the due process of local law.