

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 example, Canada has such an arrangement with Australia.

Consular Assistance

Canada has over 270 "points of service" worldwide where consular officials 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 an accident or death 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 Government Offices Abroad" section for information on how to contact the Canadian office(s) in the country you plan to visit.

Emergency Consular Services

Canadian government offices abroad offer 24-hour assistance. During non-office hours, your telephone call 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 the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade 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 the country you are calling from.

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 these areas are off limits to foreigners or people who are not members of that faith. Ask permission before

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

taking photographs of religious artifacts or buildings.

Not everybody likes to have his or her picture taken. Local people may resent you for taking their photograph or they may demand money for the picture after it has been taken. Always ask first.

Never take photographs of military facilities, a harbour where naval vessels are docked or industrial installations such as oil refineries. You may lose your film and your camera, and could even come under suspicion of espionage.

Taking Precautions

The same rules apply abroad as at home, only more so. Foreigners are usually at greater risk than locals. In many countries, foreigners are specifically targeted. Do not wander into unknown areas; find out how