

Hiring a Foreign Lawyer

The choice of legal representation in your country of arrest can be critically important and should be made with care and caution. As a first step, you should make contact with a consular official at the Canadian diplomatic or consular mission responsible for services in the country of arrest.

Consular officials can provide a list of lawyers who have expertise in your particular type of case, and who may have represented Canadians in the past. They cannot, however, make recommendations. You may, of course, prefer to engage a lawyer who is not on the list. The decision to hire a specific lawyer remains your responsibility. In either event, you may wish to consider whether a lawyer is:

- experienced in your type of case;
- well regarded in the local legal community;
- able to communicate in your language of choice;
- willing to agree upon a fee structure for the duration of the case, including any appeal procedures.

Consular officials will facilitate communication between you, or someone you designate, and your lawyer. Although officials will provide you with information based on their experience, they cannot make decisions for you. Ultimately, all decisions affecting the conduct of the case must be made by you or your representative.