

past, you could run into difficulty if your record shows a criminal conviction or a previous denial of entry. Attempting to gain entry without a waiver could result in several weeks of detention at a U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) facility.

If you left the United States to avoid military service during the Vietnam War and have not since regularized your status, there might be an outstanding warrant for your arrest or you might be ineligible for U.S. entry. If in doubt, check with the nearest U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) port of entry.

If you need information about regularizing your status with the U.S. military, you can call the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa at **1 800 283-4356** or **(613) 238-5335** and select "Defence Attaché's Office" from the voice mail menu.

Travel with or by Children

Since December 11, 2001, Canadian children need their own passport. However, if you

hold a valid Canadian passport issued before December 11, 2001, that bears the name of your child, the passport remains valid for both you and your child until it expires or until your child reaches the age of 16, whichever comes first.

Child Abduction

If there is a possibility of a custody dispute developing while you are away with your child, you should talk to a Canadian lawyer before leaving home. For more information on international child abduction, consult our publication *International Child Abductions: A Manual for Parents*.

U.S. and Canadian authorities and transportation companies are increasingly vigilant in questioning persons travelling with children. If you are planning to travel to the United States with a child, you should carry documentation proving your custodial rights, especially for very young children. If a person younger than 18 is travelling to the United States alone or with only one parent or another adult, certified documentation proving