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## ARE YOU CRIMINALLY INADMISSIBLE TO CANADA?

If you have been charged or convicted of any crime, **including driving while impaired**, you may be prohibited from entering Canada to visit, work, study or immigrate.

In general, people are considered to be inadmissible to Canada due to past criminal activity if they were convicted of an offence in Canada or were convicted of an offence outside of Canada that is considered a crime in Canada. In order to enter Canada in the future, these people need to obtain a **Temporary Resident Permit or Approval of Rehabilitation** at a Canadian Consulate or Embassy. You will find an application form and further information about the application process below.

In the case of an application for a Temporary Resident Permit, in addition to the supporting documentation, you must also show that there are compelling grounds, humanitarian and compassionate reasons or national interest grounds for you to receive a permit. The visa officer will decide if those grounds are sufficient for issuance of a permit.

Please read the information below carefully before submitting an application form for [Rehabilitation](#) or [Temporary Resident Permit](#).

### Are you deemed rehabilitated?

You may be deemed rehabilitated if at least 10 years have passed since the completion of the sentence imposed for your crime, including any probation period. For example if you were convicted of driving under the influence it must be at least 10

#### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

- Reduction in the Right of Permanent Residence Fee
- Passport Requirements for All Travelers, Including Us Citizens, Entering or Returning into the Us by Air after January 23, 2007
- Fraud advisory warning - Attention all visa (temporary or permanent residence) and work permit applicants

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE DETROIT AREA

- Statutory Holidays
- Contact Information and Hours of Operation
- Mailing Instructions
- Photographic Specifications
- Normal Processing Times
- Directions to the Consulate General
- Do you need an interpreter?
- Obtaining Police Certificates
- Fee Schedule

#### VISIT CANADA

- [Temporary Resident Visa](#)

#### STUDY IN CANADA

- [Study Permits](#)

#### WORK IN CANADA

#### Our Services

**Passport and Consular / Emergency Services for Canadians**

**Visas and Immigration**

**Trade and Investment**

**Government and Politics**

**Border Cooperation**

**Defence, Security and Foreign Policy**

**Our Shared Environment**

**Arts, Culture and Society**

**Study in Canada / Canadian Studies**

**Tourism in Canada**

**Canadian Government Offices in the U.S.**

years since your full driving privileges were restored and the probation period, if any, has ended.

To be eligible you must usually only have one conviction and the conviction must be of a less serious nature, that in Canada would have been punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of fewer than 10 years.

You may be deemed rehabilitated at a port of entry without submitting an application or paying any fee. However if you are not certain that you are deemed rehabilitated or would prefer to be deemed rehabilitated before your planned trip to Canada, you may apply for rehabilitation at our office and submit a non-refundable processing fee. You must apply well in advance of your trip as routine applications can take six months to process.

If you do meet the requirements for deemed rehabilitation we will send you a letter to that effect. If not, and you are eligible to apply for permanent rehabilitation, we will consider your application for rehabilitation.

**Were you convicted as a juvenile?**

In Canada, a juvenile offender is someone who is 12 years of age or older but less than 18 years of age. If you were convicted for an act committed when you were under 18 years of age it is possible that you are not criminally inadmissible.

**Do you have criminal convictions in Canada?**

If you have a criminal conviction in Canada, you must seek a pardon from the National Parole Board of Canada before you will be admissible to Canada. Do not complete the form on this website. You can request a guide on the approval for rehabilitation or any additional information from the following address:

**Clemency and Pardons Division, National Parole Board  
410 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
K1A 0R1**

**Telephone: 1-800-874-2652  
(Callers from Canada and the United States only)  
Fax: 1-613-941-4981**

**Web: <http://www.npb-cnbc.gc.ca>  
(The guide, which contains the application form, can be downloaded from this site)**

If you are traveling to Canada carry a copy of the pardon with you.

Temporary work Permits

**PERSONS WHO ARE INADMISSIBLE TO CANADA**

- Have you been deported from or ordered to leave Canada?
- Are you criminally inadmissible to Canada?

**PERMANENT RESIDENCE IN CANADA**

- General Information for Permanent Resident Applicants
- Application Kits and Instructions

**CANADIAN PERMANENT RESIDENTS ABROAD**

- Travel Document Application and Instructions

**IMMIGRATIONS REPRESENTATIVES**

- Who May Represent You?



Sign up for Connect2Canada — the network for Canadians residing in the United States.

**If you have had only two summary convictions in Canada,** you may be deemed rehabilitated and no longer inadmissible to Canada if:

- - 5 years have passed since the sentence imposed was served or to be served
- - you have had no subsequent convictions and
- - you have not been refused a pardon.

#### **Is your foreign pardon recognized in Canada?**

If you received a pardon or expungement for your conviction in a country other than Canada it is possible that you are no longer inadmissible to Canada. You should carry the pardon or expungement documents with you when you seek entry into Canada as it is your responsibility to demonstrate to the officer at the Port of Entry that all of your convictions have been expunged or pardoned.

#### **Are you eligible to apply for rehabilitation?**

You may apply for rehabilitation if at least five years have passed since the completion of the sentence imposed for your crime, including any probation period. For example if you were convicted of driving under the influence it must be at least five years since your full driving privileges were restored and the probation period, if any, has ended.

You may apply for permanent rehabilitation at our office. You must apply well in advance of your planned trip to Canada as routine applications can take six months to process. Non-routine applications can take up to two years to process. **If you have genuine, compelling reasons to enter Canada within a shorter time frame, please enclose a letter which explains your reasons in detail and states the date by which you need to enter Canada.** In evaluating the application we will look for evidence that you have taken steps to change your behaviour and will no longer pose a potential danger to Canadians.

#### **What is a temporary resident permit?**

If you are not deemed rehabilitated or you are not yet eligible for rehabilitation or you are not eligible for a pardon in Canada, you may apply for a temporary resident permit. If justified by compelling circumstances, foreign nationals who are inadmissible to Canada, including people who have a criminal conviction, may be issued a temporary resident permit allowing them to enter or remain in Canada.

You must apply well in advance of your planned trip to Canada as routine applications can take six months to process. In addition to the supporting documentation you must also show that there are compelling grounds, humanitarian and compassionate reasons or national interest

grounds for you to receive a permit. The visa officer will decide if those grounds are sufficient for issuance of a permit. **If you have genuine, compelling reasons to enter Canada within a shorter time frame, please enclose a letter which explains your reasons in detail and states the date by which you need to enter Canada.** In evaluating your application, we will weigh your reasons for seeking entry against the potential risk to Canadians.

**If you are not sure of the steps to follow in your specific circumstances, you may send us an enquiry by [email](#), [fax](#) or [mail](#) and we will advise you further.**

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS AT DETROIT**

Please read the following instructions carefully before you complete the application form

- You should submit your application by mail.
- Your application is subject to a NON-REFUNDABLE processing fee. If your application is refused, the fee will not be refunded.
- The Immigration Section offers service in both of Canada's official languages; English and French. Documents in languages other than English or French must be accompanied by a certified translation.
- If a personal interview is required, you will be notified in writing of the date and time of the interview.
- In order to determine inadmissibility, foreign convictions, acts, or omissions are equated to Canadian law as if they occurred in Canada.
- You will have to provide us with complete details of charges, convictions, court dispositions, pardons, photocopies of applicable sections of foreign law(s), and court proceedings. The officer will determine whether or not you are inadmissible to Canada.
- You will be advised in writing of our final decision.

Please submit:

- A fully completed application form, use this form for [rehabilitation](#) or for a [Temporary Resident permit](#)
- Two passport-size [photographs to our specifications](#). (should be included with the initial submission, but will not result in a return of the application if missing).
- The non-refundable processing fee - see below
- An **original** Police certificates from the police authorities in all countries (including Canada) where you have lived or been convicted since the age of 18. Each clearance must be based on a fingerprint check. If you have lived in the United States, you must provide a FBI clearance and a clearance from each state in which you have lived or been convicted since age 18. See our [Police Clearance Instructions](#) for more information.

**Photocopies of the following documents:**

- Pages from your passport showing your name, date of birth, and country of birth. If you are a citizen of the United States and you do not have a passport, you may submit a copy of your driver's license and birth certificate. Ensure that the expiry date on your driver's license will not be within the processing periods stated (6-12 months) or the processing of your application may be delayed (should be included with the initial submission, but will not result in a return of the application if missing).
- Each court judgment made against you. It must clearly show the charge, the section of the law under which you were charged, the verdict and the sentence.
- Copies of the section of all statutes under which you were charged and/or convicted. You can obtain copies of foreign laws by contacting local police authorities, lawyers, the courthouse where the offence occurred, visiting your local law library, or searching the Internet. If you are in Canada and need information about another country, their local embassy or consulate may be able to help you.
- Three type-written letters of character reference from public official or respected private citizens.
- Any documents relating to sentence imposed, parole, probation or pardon: e.g. court records, judge's comments (including recommendation concerning parole), probation or parole reports, certificate of rehabilitation, letters of recommendation from public officials or respected private citizens, etc. **These documents must clearly show when your sentence was completed.**
- If you were convicted of driving under the influence in the United States, please also submit your state driving record.

Please note that applications which are not complete, that is do not have ALL of the above documentation (unless stated otherwise), may not be processed and may be returned to you in their entirety. The decision to return an application is at the discretion of the officer in charge of the file.

**You will receive by mail the final decision on your case.**

### **Fees**

You must submit the processing fee with your application for a Temporary Resident Visa or Rehabilitation. See our [fee schedule](#)

Normal processing time is **6 months** for routine cases. Non-routine cases can take up to two years to process. **If you have genuine, compelling reasons to enter Canada within a shorter time frame, please enclose a letter which explains your reasons in detail and states the date by which you need to enter Canada.**