

CRIMINAL LAW AND IMMIGRATION STATUS IN CANADA



Traffic tickets, parking tickets, and bylaw offences (like noise complaints) do not affect immigration status.

Young people under 18 years old cannot lose their immigration status or be deported if they are convicted of a crime under the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

Visitors, Students and Workers

If a visitor, student, or worker in Canada is convicted of one **summary offence** – a less serious crime – their immigration status will not change.

If they are convicted of two summary offences or one more serious crime, they may be deported. If they are allowed to stay until a visa or work permit ends, they will not be allowed to return.

Visitors, students, and workers cannot appeal a change to their immigration status.

Permanent Residents & Refugees

If a permanent resident or refugee is convicted of one summary offence, they will not lose their status or be deported.

If they are convicted of more than one crime, they may lose their permanent resident or refugee status. If they are allowed to stay in Canada, they may not be able to become a citizen.

Permanent residents and refugees may be able to appeal a decision about their immigration status.

Serious Crimes Affect Everyone

Anyone who is not a Canadian citizen can lose their status and be deported for **serious criminality**. This includes permanent residents, refugees, students, workers, and visitors.

Serious criminality means:

- A crime with a **possible sentence** of 10 or more years in prison.
- A person is convicted of a crime and **sentenced to more than 6 months in prison**.
- A person is convicted of a crime **outside Canada** with a possible sentence of 10 or more years in prison, **if it had been committed in Canada**.

What You Can Do

- Apply for citizenship for yourself and your children as soon as you are eligible.
- Talk to a lawyer if you are charged with a crime. Tell the lawyer about your immigration status. They may give different advice if you are not a citizen
- If your immigration status changes, talk to a lawyer as soon as possible about whether you can appeal.
- If you are convicted of a crime, follow all conditions set by police and the court.

If 5 years or more have passed since you were convicted of a crime, you may be able to **apply for a record suspension**.

Get more information here:

tinyurl.com/RecordSuspend



If 5 years or more have passed since you were convicted of a crime, you may be able to **apply for rehabilitation**. Get

more information here:

tinyurl.com/ApplyRehab

