



Do You Have A Marijuana Conviction?

**What Individuals and Employers Need to Know About
Cannabis Pardons & Visa Waivers**

by Evelyn L. Ackah
Founder and Managing Lawyer
Ackah Business Immigration Law

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Do You Have A Marijuana Conviction? Cross Border Travel: What Individuals and Employers Need to Know About Cannabis Pardons & Visa Waivers

Hello and thank you for downloading our eBook!



Canada legalized cannabis in October 2018. Individuals who travel between Canada and the United States continue to have concerns about how legalized recreational cannabis in Canada and some U.S. states impacts crossing the Canada-U.S. border for vacations, personal reasons or on business.

There have been many stories in the media about Canadians who legally used or purchased marijuana in Canada have been denied entry to the United States. U.S. and Canadian companies with cross-border employees who travel between the United States and Canada or who have locations in both countries need to be aware of the new laws, and how they could potentially impact both Canadian employees who travel to the U.S. on business or vacation, and U.S. employees who travel to Canada for work or holidays.

United States federal laws on cannabis have not changed. Canada's Cannabis Pardon Bill C-93 does not erase information about Canadians' criminal history that was already electronically shared with the U.S. border

patrol database. Canadians with criminal records for cannabis possession still face problems at the border, and are still subject to being denied entry or a permanent ban on entering the U.S. even if they have a pardon.

Our eBook is intended to provide information about marijuana records for individuals and employers who want to enter Canada or the United States listed below:

- What a Cannabis Pardon Does - and Does Not Do
- Marijuana Medical Use
- CBD Oil and Cannabis Derivatives
- What is A Visa Waiver: Do You Need One?

Please feel free to contact me to discuss your immigration questions and plans. We are here to help individuals and businesses make *Crossing Borders Seamlessly™* a reality.

Sincerely,

Evelyn L. Ackah

Founder and Managing Lawyer, Ackah Business Immigration Law
www.ackahlaw.com

Do you have questions about inadmissibility to Canada or the United States?

We Can Help

Contact Ackah Business Immigration Law:

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1. Introduction

Immigration law is about people. At **Ackah Business Immigration Law** our greatest strength lies in the trusting relationships we develop with our clients and their families. With over 30 years of combined experience, our law firm has earned the respect of immigration officials and consular staff around the globe. Immigration laws and regulations change quickly, and our team of personal and business immigration lawyers and paralegals are at the forefront of these rapid changes.

Ackah Business Immigration Law focuses exclusively on **immigration law**. We provide strategic counsel based on the most recent immigration developments affecting people who want to move to Canada. As one of Canada's most recognized boutique law firms specializing in **Citizenship and Immigration Law**, our team provides thoughtful and expert legal advice to deliver proven and effective immigration law strategies to our clients. In addition, our high ethical integrity and commitment to client care has earned our firm its national reputation for excellence.

Our goal is to help individuals and companies to achieve their objectives by working with our specialized immigration lawyers and paralegals to assist key personnel and their families with crossing borders seamlessly.

Our innovative approach to client management, strategic advice, alternative fee structures and 24/7/365 accessibility to our immigration team is what makes our firm truly unique.

Immigration Services

We provide a full range of Canadian and United States individual and corporate cross-border immigration services, including:

- Business Visitor Cross-border Applications
- Work Permit Applications

- Express Entry Applications
- Permanent Residence Applications - Provincial Nomination
- Citizenship Applications
- Assistance with Inadmissibility issues due to criminality or medical issues
- Study Permits

Disclaimer

This eBook is intended to provide a general overview of how the cannabis laws impact entry into the United States and Canada. It is not intended to be relied upon as legal advice. It is for general information purposes only.

Please contact Ackah Business Immigration Law for specific legal advice.

2. Cannabis Pardon Does Not Guarantee You Entry In the U.S.

Canada Bill C-93, an amendment to the Criminal Records Act to expedite granting pardons for Canadians with criminal records for simple possession of cannabis was tabled by the federal government in March and became law on [August 1, 2019](#). The law eliminates the waiting process associated with other pardon applications and waives the \$631 application fee and the 5-10 year wait period. A pardoned cannabis conviction will not appear in the Canadian Police Information Centre database, which is used by United States border officials to determine if someone can cross the border into the U.S.

Canada immigration lawyer Evelyn Ackah advises that the U.S. laws on marijuana possession, use and investment have not changed and that Canadians with a cannabis conviction should consult an immigration lawyer before they travel to the United States:



U.S. federal laws on cannabis have not changed. Canada Bill C-93 does not erase information about Canadians' criminal history that was already electronically shared with the U.S. border patrol database. Canadians with criminal records for cannabis possession still face problems at the border, and are still subject to being denied entry or a permanent ban on entering the U.S. even if they have a pardon.

What Is A Cannabis Waiver of Inadmissibility?

One of the most stressful issues for people traveling to Canada or the United States is [criminal inadmissibility](#). Marijuana convictions, 30 or 40 years old, can cause you to be deemed inadmissible to enter at the border. Canadian and U.S. immigration agencies

share electronic criminal data. As a result, your file can be flagged at the border even if you have not been charged or have not been convicted of a cannabis crime. If you have received a Canadian cannabis pardon, but your criminal marijuana conviction was already shared with the United States, that information remains in the U.S. database and is used by border guards to determine if you can enter.

You may qualify to be deemed rehabilitated and receive a waiver of inadmissibility. Rather than risk being denied entry due to criminal inadmissibility, an immigration lawyer can review your case and advise if you should apply for a determination of individual rehabilitation.

Public Safety Canada confirms a cannabis pardon still impacts a Canadian's ability to enter the United States:

As with expungement, a pardon does not guarantee a person entry or visa privileges to another country because foreign jurisdictions are not bound by Canadian laws. Entry and exit requirements are at the discretion of each country.

Any foreign country, including the United States, may have documented previous interactions with individuals, which may include an individual's Canadian criminal conviction information prior to a pardon being granted. When required by foreign border officials, these individuals will be able to provide the required documentation to demonstrate that their conviction has been pardoned.

The new cannabis pardon law allows Canadians and Non-Canadians with a marijuana conviction in Canada to apply for pardons through the Parole Board of Canada's [website](#), promising faster processing.

3. How Marijuana Impaired Driving Penalties Can Result in Deportation from Canada

Canada legalized the recreational use of cannabis in October 2018, and on December 18, 2018, Canada enacted new impaired driving penalties and the maximum penalty for



most of these crimes increased to 10 years from 5. This means that marijuana-related impaired driving penalties now are considered serious crimes for immigration determination purposes that can result in loss of status and deportation.

Canada's IRCC issued a notice advising immigration applicants and temporary and permanent residents that most cannabis-related crimes will have a maximum penalty of 14 years and include:

- illegally producing, distributing or selling cannabis
- illegally importing or exporting cannabis or cannabis-related products across Canada's international borders

Cannabis-related crimes include driving while impaired, selling marijuana to someone under 18 or using a young person to commit a cannabis-related offence. If you commit a marijuana-related crime, you can be declared inadmissible to Canada for life for serious criminality and be deported, whether the crime occurred in or outside of Canada:

- permanent residents could lose their status and have to leave the country

- temporary residents (including visitors, international students and foreign workers) may not be able to enter or stay in Canada
- refugee claimants may not be eligible to have their claim referred for a refugee hearing

IRCC further stated that "appeal rights for permanent residents and foreign nationals, including sponsored members of the family class, could also be affected."

What to Do If You Are Deemed Inadmissible to Canada

Canada's federal immigration law states that a permanent resident or foreign national can be **deemed inadmissible to Canada** for life and deported if they have been convicted of a Canadian offence punishable by up to 10 years in prison, or of an offence for which they have actually been sentenced to more than six months' imprisonment behind bars. These same rules apply to anyone who has committed an offence in another country if in Canada, the crime carries a penalty of up to 10 years.

If you are a temporary or permanent resident and already living in Canada and are convicted of a serious crime and deemed inadmissible, deportation proceedings may be started.

Canada immigration lawyer Evelyn Ackah explains,

Criminality and being deemed inadmissible to Canada must be taken very seriously. Our new cannabis laws mean that residents or visitors to Canada who foolishly drive while under the influence of marijuana, or commit other marijuana-related crimes, can lose their status and be deported. Permanent

residents of Canada are entitled to many privileges afforded to all Canadians, but they are not citizens. Temporary residents have been granted a short defined period to live and work in Canada, and criminality can result in having that status revoked.

Permanent residents should consider if they want to become Canadian citizens and have all the rights, privileges and protections as someone born in Canada. If you are a temporary or permanent resident, or want to file an immigration application, and have been deemed inadmissible due to a crime that occurred in Canada or another country, there are steps you can take to appeal your inadmissible status and be classified as rehabilitated.

If you are refused entry to Canada due to criminal inadmissibility there are legal options to enter the country:

- **Deemed Rehabilitation**

If enough time has passed since all of the conditions of the sentence for the conviction were met, you may be eligible for deemed rehabilitated by Canada border officials.

- **Criminal Rehabilitation**

If it has been at least 5 years since all penalties of your conviction have been fulfilled, or your charges have been pardoned or discharged, you can make a formal application to the Canada consulate before you try to enter Canada.

If it has been less than 5 years since the crime was committed and you have a

compelling reason to visit Canada, it may be possible to get a Temporary Resident Permit that allows you to enter and remain in Canada for a short time despite your status as inadmissible.

If you have been deemed inadmissible or are not sure if you are inadmissible, it is best to have your records reviewed by someone familiar with Canada's criminal and immigration law to guide you through this process.

4. New TSA Rules on CBD Oil Do Not Include Canada Users

In May 2019 the United States Transportation Security Administration (TSA) updated their cannabis policy to allow some forms of cannabidiol (CBD) oil on flights. [TSA.gov new regulations](https://www.tsa.gov/new-regulations) allow FDA-approved medical marijuana and products that contain hemp-derived CBD oil "as long as it is produced within the regulations defined by the law." The new TSA rules on CBD oil do not apply to Canada-produced CBD oils and other cannabis derivatives, and it does not permit Canadians flying to the United States to carry CBD oil, which is federally prohibited.



Canada immigration and visa waiver lawyer Evelyn Ackah says the federal government needs to do more to educate Canadians about travelling to the U.S. with cannabis-related products:

Under present U.S. law you cannot get a marijuana medical use waiver to travel to the United States. Cannabis products for medical use cannot be carried over the border from Canada to the United States. It is a criminal offense. You cannot bring marijuana to the U.S., including any derivatives such as hemp products or CBD oils or edibles such as gummies, lollipops or brownies. The United States views them the same as bringing leafy marijuana across the border, which is a federal crime. If you are denied entry to the U.S. because you are carrying cannabis products, we can apply for a waiver. If we succeed that waiver must be renewed every year, two years or five years.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved drugs that contain CBD oil or other hemp-derived products must be produced under U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations. The FDA does not approve drugs manufactured in Canada.

TSA is governed by United States federal law. The TSA website says that if there were questions of whether a CBD oil or cannabis product was illegal under federal law, the issue will be referred to state or federal law authorities.

Are You a Canadian Concerned About Travel to the U.S.?

Avoid costly mistakes, lengthy delays and even a lifetime travel ban from entering the United States due to a criminal conviction for cannabis use in your past. Even if you have received a Canada cannabis pardon, a past charge or conviction for marijuana possession in Canada can deny you the right to enter the U.S., impose substantial fines - or a lifetime ban. Marijuana use is legal in Canada, but even though medical and recreational use are legal in some states, cannabis use and derivative products are illegal under United States federal law.

If you have received a Canadian cannabis pardon, but your criminal marijuana conviction was already shared with the United States, that information remains in the U.S. database and is used by border guards to determine if you can enter or denied entry due to criminal inadmissibility.

Rather than risk being denied entry due to criminal inadmissibility, an immigration lawyer can review your case and if you can apply for a **U.S. visa waiver of ineligibility** for 1, 2 or 5 years depending on the justification for requiring the waiver, the seriousness of the crimes that resulted in the inadmissibility and the amount of time that has passed since the conviction(s) occurred, and other factors. If a waiver is granted,

you can visit the United States multiple times during the time period of the waiver, but if you intend to stay in the U.S. for more than 3 months at one time, additional forms may need to be completed and submitted with the application.

5. How to Enter Canada If You've Been Convicted of Marijuana Use

The headlines are frequently featured U.S. entertainers such as comedian Russell Brand, actors Wes Brantley and Lindsay Lohan, rappers DMX and Kodak Black, or actor who has been banned from entering Canada for drug-related crimes. Being denied entry to Canada doesn't just happen to entertainers - anyone with a conviction for a serious crime in the United States can be deemed criminally inadmissible by a Canada border agent and refused entry to Canada.



If you have a criminal record, you can be banned from entering Canada and deemed criminally inadmissible for life. That includes if you have been convicted of a cannabis usage or related crime, such as driving while impaired or distribution, even though recreational use of marijuana is now legal in Canada.

Are You Worried You Will be Denied Entry to Canada?

Do you have a U.S. criminal record for a minor or serious crime and are concerned you will be denied entry to Canada? Average people and celebrities can overcome criminal inadmissibility, including for marijuana-related crimes. Canada and the U.S. share security data, including the criminal history of their citizens. This means that if you have a criminal record in the United States, **you may be declared rehabilitated** and no longer banned from Canada for life, known as Criminal Rehabilitation. If you are refused entry to Canada due to a conviction for a marijuana-related crime outside of Canada, there may still be ways to legally enter Canada.

Criminal Rehabilitation

If you have been convicted of a crime you can apply to be "deemed" rehabilitated. Canada border agents have considerable discretion to evaluate someone who is at the border applying to enter Canada and determine if they are rehabilitated. However, there is a significant risk that the border agent will not have sufficient proof that someone is rehabilitated, and may still refuse entry to Canada. Anyone can apply for a determination of individual rehabilitation. A Canada immigration legal expert can advise you on the best options for you to qualify to be deemed rehabilitated.

1. How Long Ago Was The Crime Committed?

If it is over five years since you completed all of the requirements of your sentence, such as paying any fines and completing parole and over 10 years since the crime was committed, you may be eligible for rehabilitation status. You must be able to show you are unlikely to commit another crime by proving a stable life and no other recent crimes.

2. Did You Receive a Pardon?

Was your crime pardoned or discharged from the state or country where you were convicted? If so, you can [apply to IRCC to be deemed rehabilitated](#) - that cannot be done by a border agent.

3. Do You Have A Compelling Reason to Enter Canada?

If it is less than five years since your court sentence was completed and you have a compelling reason to enter Canada, such as a family emergency or an urgent work issue, you may be eligible for a Temporary Resident Permit (TRP). This is a short-term

solution that will allow you to enter and remain in Canada despite your status as inadmissible, but you must leave the country by the expiration date on the TRP.

6. What U.S. and Canadian Employers Need to Know About Canada's New Marijuana Laws

When Canada legalized cannabis in October 2018, U.S. and Canadian companies with cross-border employees who travel between the United States and Canada or who have locations in both countries need to be aware of the new laws, and how they could potentially impact both Canadian employees who travel to the U.S. on business or vacation, and U.S. employees who travel to Canada for work or holidays.



- Marijuana use, distribution and investment are against U.S. federal law, even if it is legal to recreationally smoke marijuana in some U.S. states. The U.S. border patrol has stated they **will strictly enforce federal drug laws.**
- The U.S. border patrol has the authority to refuse admission to the United States to individuals who have legally used drugs in another country - **U.S. citizens who try to cross back into the United States carrying marijuana bought legally in Canada to states where it is legal to have it could be arrested at the border crossings for possession — or drug smuggling — and face stiff fines or years in jail.**
- If a Canadian crossing the U.S. border lies about legally using marijuana in Canada - even for medical reasons - they can be banned from entering the United States for lying to immigration officials.

- The U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs' press officer said: “admission requirements into the United States will not change due to Canada’s legalization of cannabis.”

What HR Departments Should Do Now to Prevent American and Canadian Employees Being Banned for Life from Entering the United States

Neighbours America and Canada have long enjoyed a friendly personal and business relationship. Many U.S. and Canadian businesses do cross-border business and have employees who regularly or occasionally travel between the U.S. and Canada for work reasons. With Canada's new laws that legalize the recreational use of marijuana, employees who legally smoke pot while in Canada may face difficulty crossing the border into the United States - even if they are American citizens.

Immigration lawyer Evelyn Ackah explains,

Human Resource departments in Canada and the U.S. should update their HR policies and notify all employees who may currently or in the future travel between Canada and the U.S. for work, business, education - or even vacations - about how the new marijuana laws could impact them - and what they should and shouldn't do when crossing the Canadian border into the United States.

- Americans who admit to U.S. border guards that they legally used marijuana while in Canada could face difficulties re-entering the U.S.
- Canadians who legally purchase marijuana in Canada may be barred from entering the United States

- Canadians who legally invest in or work in the cannabis industry - even if they do not use marijuana themselves - are subject to the same U.S. federal laws that ban the use, purchase or distribution of cannabis - for any reason.
- Electronic records which show the purchase of legal marijuana in Canada may be available to U.S. border patrol agents - including credit card records, cell phone records and other electronic data.

Evelyn Ackah advises,

Never lie about marijuana use at the border crossing, but instead refuse to answer the question about marijuana use. In that case, Canadians will be denied admission to the United States on that occasion, but will not be banned for life. Americans returning to the U.S. from Canada can be questioned about their legal use or purchase of marijuana in Canada, and are subject to U.S. penalties and laws.

Ackah Business Immigration Law offers [employment law and human resources advisory services for companies that do cross-border business](#). Ackah Law's legal team works with HR departments to protect their business interests and employees. We recommend you review your HR policies and practices and consult a Canadian immigration expert if your business:

- sends employees to meetings, events or conferences for educational, sales or networking reasons to the U.S. or Canada from the other country
- has locations and employees in both the U.S. and Canada
- is considering expanding from the U.S. to Canada, or vice versa
- recruits and hires employees from Canada to work in the United States

- has American employees who visit Canada on holiday, for study or other personal reasons

7. Marijuana Legalization in Canada Causes Issues for Investors at the U.S. Border

With the October 17, 2018, legalization of marijuana in Canada, many immigration issues are looming for Canadians who want to travel to the U.S. for business and pleasure. As other countries become aware of Canada's new pot laws, immigration lawyers are warning Canadians who admit to consuming marijuana legally in Canada or investing in the cannabis industry could have problems at the border, which is under United States federal jurisdiction. While marijuana is legal in several states, in the U.S. it is federally classified as an illicit and controlled substance.



- A Vancouver venture capitalist who invests in the U.S. cannabis industry was recently [denied entry to the United States](#) based on his investments.
- An [Edmonton man received a lifetime ban from entering the U.S.](#) because he was a part-owner in a Colorado building that leases space to a pot dispensary.
- Canadians who legally buy marijuana in Canada may be [denied entry to the United States](#).

According to [The Star](#), the U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs press officer said "admission requirements into the United States will not change due to Canada's legalization of cannabis."

Canada immigration lawyer Evelyn Ackah advises,

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Never lie at the border crossing, but instead to refuse to answer questions about marijuana use or investment. In that case, you will be denied admission to the United States on that occasion, but will not be banned for life.

Hopefully the border issues surrounding Canadians's legal use of marijuana will be resolved soon. In the meantime, if you do legally use marijuana in Canada and are traveling to the United State for business or as a tourist, I recommend:

- When crossing the Canada / U.S. border, make sure you are not carrying any marijuano or cannabis paraphernalia in your pockets or bags.
- Put passwords on your electronic devices so your photos, emails and texts cannot be read.
- Do not use a credit card to purchase marijuana, as the legal electronic sharing of data between countries could make that information available to the border agents.

What To Do If You Are Denied Entry to the U.S. by Homeland Security

Banned travelers can apply for a waiver, which lasts for one to five years if approved. If you are deemed inadmissible to enter Canada and are permanently banned from entering the United States for your legal Canadian purchase and use of marijuana, you can appeal the decision. Ackah Business Immigration Law provides comprehensive expertise in all areas of Canadian and United States immigration law. Our innovative legal practice combines professional knowledge, personal attention, and supportive advice. With knowledge and expertise, we navigate complex U.S. immigration rules and regulations to solve problems and remove obstacles, before you get to the border.

8. Marijuana Medical Use: Can I Get a Visa Waiver to Enter the U.S.?

In the United States, cannabis use is legal in many states, particularly for medical use, but is still classified as a [Schedule I narcotic](#) drug by the DEA and remains federally prohibited. If a Canadian is caught by U.S. customs with marijuana or any derivative such as CBD oil, there are serious legal consequences, regardless of whether cannabis is legal in the U.S. state where the border crossing is located.



Medical use is not a valid reason to possess a cannabis product when entering the United States. Recently a 21-year-old [Canadian woman with CBD](#) oil in her backpack was searched when entering Washington via

British Columbia, fined \$500, fingerprinted, denied entry, and told that if she wished to attempt to re-enter the U.S. she would have to apply for a \$585 waiver. Eventually, her case was reversed, but many other Canadians crossing the U.S. border with a criminal history of a cannabis conviction or who are carrying a product such as CBD oil are denied entry or receive a lifetime ban on entering the United States, including [marijuana for medicinal purposes](#).

Canada immigration and visa waiver lawyer Evelyn Ackah says the Canadian federal government needs to do more to educate people about traveling with cannabis-related products:

Cannabis for medical use cannot be carried over the border from Canada to the United States. It is a criminal offense. You cannot bring marijuana to the U.S.,

including any derivatives such as CBD oils or edibles such as gummies, lollipops or brownies. The United States views them the same as bringing leafy marijuana across the border, which is a federal crime. We can apply for a waiver for a past cannabis criminal conviction, and if we succeed that waiver must be renewed every year, two years or five years. But under present U.S. law you cannot get a marijuana medical use waiver to travel to the United States.

U.S. Visa Waiver of Ineligibility

If you are denied entry at the border, receive a lifetime entry ban or are ineligible for a visa to the United States due to a cannabis conviction or other reason, you may be able to apply for a [U.S. visa waiver of ineligibility](#). A waiver can be for 1, 2 or 5 years depending on the justification for requiring the waiver, the seriousness of the crimes that resulted in the inadmissibility and the amount of time that has passed since the conviction(s) occurred, and other factors. If a waiver is granted, you can visit the United States multiple times during the time period of the waiver, but if you intend to stay in the U.S. for more than 3 months at one time, additional forms may need to be completed and submitted with the application.

Applying for a Waiver of Inadmissibility is time and labour intensive, and an incorrectly completed form or missing document can result in your application being rejected. You should seek the assistance of a qualified immigration attorney to assist you through the application process.

9. Canada's New Cannabis Laws and Cross-Border Travel: An Employer's Perspective: Watch



[Immigration Lawyer Evelyn Ackah on YouTube: Canada's New Cannabis Laws and Cross-Border Travel: An Employer's Perspective](#)

Transcript: Canada's New Cannabis Laws and Cross-Border Travel: An Employer's Perspective

- *I wanted to talk about the new marijuana laws that are coming into force in Canada in October. From an employer's perspective, you really need to be considering if you are ready for the new laws. Obviously from an employment law perspective there is a lot to consider, but have you considered that when you send your employees across the border and you are working for a cannabis company in any way, or use or even are on*

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the board of a cannabis or marijuana type business, that you're putting your employees and directors at risk?

- You really need to consider what the impact could be for them if they're at all involved in the marijuana industry at any level. Even though it is legal in Canada, it's not a federally legal drug in the United States.*
- Only certain States have allowed marijuana use and possession businesses, therefore you really need to be careful if you're sending people cross-border. Seek out legal advice in advance: be prepared. They need to know how to respond when questioned about previous historical cannabis use, their employment situation if they're working for a cannabis company and their involvement in any boards or organizations dealing with cannabis.*

Please give me a call at Ackah Business Immigration Law (403) 452-9515 to learn more about the impact of the marijuana laws and your cross-border employees.

10. Overcoming Criminal Inadmissibility to Enter Canada or the United States: Podcast



[Ask Canada Immigration Lawyer Evelyn Ackah Podcast: Criminal Inadmissibility to Enter Canada or the United States:](#)

One of the most stressful issues for people traveling to Canada or the United States is criminal inadmissibility. DUIs, an assault, possession of marijuana convictions even 30 or 40 years old can cause you to be deemed inadmissible to enter at the border.

- Do you want to travel for vacation?
- Does your job require you to travel?
- Have you ever been fingerprinted, charged or convicted?

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Today, criminal records are on a controlled digital system. Historically, records were on microfiche. Now, Canadian and U.S. immigration agencies are sharing electronic criminal data. As a result, your file can be flagged at the border, even if you haven't been charged yet or have not been convicted.

At Ackah Law, our practice receives calls every from Americans and Canadians who have been stopped from crossing the border:

- I'm a retired Canadian who vacations every year in the U.S. and this year I can't enter due to a DUI in my 20s.
- I travel to Canada several times a year and this time I was not allowed to cross the border.
- I have a conviction for marijuana use in my history, but now it is legal. Will I have a problem at the border?

Immigration laws and policies can be confusing, and they change frequently. Criminal inadmissibility laws are different in Canada and the United States, and the border agent has discretion to review your file and decide whether to admit you. An immigration lawyer can research your case and help you file for a waiver, be deemed rehabilitated or identify a compelling reason why you need to travel, such as work or a family emergency. A waiver may last for only one year, or for several years - each case is unique.

How to Hire an Immigration Lawyer

New data shows that applications by immigration lawyers are nearly 50% more successful. The chances of a successful immigration application to Canada are much higher - nearly double - if you hire an immigration lawyer to help get your study, work or

visitor visas, according to immigration data obtained under an access to information request by [The Toronto Star](#).



As immigration professionals, we know first-hand how important it is to have the right employee in place, to reunite a family, and to open doors to new possibilities.

We understand the dreams that drive someone to immigrate and we bring a personal approach to helping our clients. Immigration laws can be very confusing and are constantly changing. Our knowledge of the most current regulations, proactive legal solutions and our use of the latest technology deliver proven and effective results.

"Our business is immigration law. Our goal is your freedom of movement."

- Evelyn Ackah



"We've moved technical people to projects for 45 years and meeting Evelyn at Ackah Law was like a ray of sunshine. She and her team took care of everything with lightning speed and cost certainty."

- C. Ager Corp

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