

## CANADA TRAVEL ADVISORY

Canadian-bound travelers who have previously been convicted of offenses, including misdemeanors and driving while intoxicated (DWI)/driving under the influence (DUI), may be surprised to learn that their records could deny them admission to the United States' neighbor to the north because, although nothing has changed in Canada's application of its longstanding law regarding admissibility or how it's applying its rules, the U.S. and Canada are now exchanging substantially more information in their efforts to further secure our borders.

Most convictions in the U.S. for serious infractions like DUI and DWI are treated as misdemeanors or less; Canada has long considered these offenses as felonies. Travelers may be denied entry if they have ever been convicted of a felony, as that term is defined by Canadian law. A partial list of offenses that may result in denial of entry into Canada includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Offenses that may be deemed "misdemeanors" under U.S. law such as shoplifting, theft, assault, possession of an illegal substance, etc.;
- "Indictable" criminal offenses such as assault with a deadly weapon, manslaughter, etc.; or
- DWI/DUI.

If you have a DWI/DUI on your record and are considering travel to Canada, whether by car, air or cruise ship, you must first go through a separate process to gain permission to enter—a process that may take up to six months.

**EcRgV] EcRgV] is unable to advise whether any particular individual will be denied entry, or whether a particular offense will cause the denial of entry into Canada, but we can advise all such travelers to contact their nearest Canadian Consulate handling immigration issues or visit [http://geo.international.gc.ca/can-am/detroit/right\\_nav/areyoucriminallyinadmissibletocanada-en.asp](http://geo.international.gc.ca/can-am/detroit/right_nav/areyoucriminallyinadmissibletocanada-en.asp).**