



IMMIGRANT VISA PROCESSING AT MONTREAL: SUPPLEMENT TO INSTRUCTIONS FOR IMMIGRANT VISA APPLICANTS

The following is additional information specifically for those who will apply for immigrant visas at the United States Consulate General in Montreal. It supplements the enclosed "Instructions for Immigrant Visa Applicants."

Note on jurisdiction. Immigrant visa processing at the United States Consulate General in Montreal is limited to:

- Canadian citizens and landed immigrants.
- Non-Canadians who reside temporarily in Canada and have the permission of the Canadian government to remain in Canada at least six months (for example, those on a study permit).
- Persons now residing in the United States whose most recent foreign residence was in Canada. "Most recent foreign residence" means that you were a student, temporary worker, or landed immigrant in Canada for at least six months prior to moving to the United States.

Please note that this list **does not include refugee claimants**, unless and until they have subsequently been granted refugee status in Canada.

Note on acceptable documents. Official civil documents must bear the seal of the issuing office. We will accept a photocopy, but only if the original document with a seal is also presented for inspection. If you are unsure whether a document meets the requirements listed below, please consult the Department of State's Visa Reciprocity and Country Documents Finder online at:

<http://intranet.ca.state.gov/visas/reciprocity/9868.aspx>

Note on translations. All documents not in English must be accompanied by certified translations into English. Translations must be certified by a competent translator and sworn to by him before a Notary.

PROOF OF STATUS. If you are not a Canadian citizen, please provide the National Visa Center with copies of both sides of your Canadian permanent resident card or copies of your paperwork from the Canadian government stating that you may legally remain in Canada for at least six months. If you currently reside in the United States and are not a Canadian citizen, please provide the National Visa Center with copies of both sides of your Canadian permanent resident card or copies of your paperwork from the Canadian government stating that, before entering the United States, you had permission to remain in Canada for at least six months.

Please note that documents issued to refugee claimants to permit them to work or claim Canadian government benefits, such as a work permit, health insurance enrollment, or the Quebec “Certificat de Situation Statutaire,” are **not** evidence of resident status in Canada and cannot be accepted as proof of status to be processed for an immigrant visa at the U.S. Consulate General Montreal.

POLICE CERTIFICATES. The certificate issued for your present place of residence must have been issued within the 12 months preceding the date of your final visa appointment in Montreal. The following information applies to specific jurisdictions:

Canada: Contact your local police service or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) regarding criminal record check procedures. Certificates may issued by any Canadian police force so long as they note that CPIC or the national criminal records repository was searched using your name and date of birth. Please ensure that the search includes all names that you have previously used, including maiden names or names prior to naturalization. (Note: Because records checks based on name and date of birth only are sometimes less thorough than those based on fingerprints, the Consulate reserves the right to request that certain applicants obtain fingerprint-based searches from the RCMP.)

If you have a record of conviction in Canada, please contact the RCMP in order to have a full set of fingerprints taken. See http://www.rcmp.ca/crimrec/finger2_e.htm#Obtain. (Note: If a name- and date of birth-based search by a police agency reveals a conviction record, that agency may be unwilling to issue a certificate without taking a full set of your fingerprints and sending them to the RCMP for positive identification.)

If not residing in Canada, you must send a duplicate set of fingerprints (taken by a local police force) to the RCMP. See http://www.rcmp.ca/crimrec/finger2_e.htm#Obtain.

United States: Do not obtain police certificates from places in the United States unless you have an arrest record there. If you do, a **certified copy of the court record indicating the disposition of the proceedings** will expedite processing of your immigrant visa application.

Other countries: Procedures vary from country to country. Please consult the appropriate Embassy or Consulate for information. You may also consult the Visa Reciprocity and Country Documents finder website: <http://intranet.ca.state.gov/visas/reciprocity/9868.aspx>.