

# DUI Convictions Prevent Crossing the Border from New York State into Canada

## Canada's So-Called Inadmissible Class

The Canadian Government will prevent certain non-Canadian citizens from entering Canada under their restrictive immigration laws. These individuals are members of “an Inadmissible Classes.” The Inadmissible status prohibits any non-Canadian individual from entering Canada and remaining within their borders. People often confuse this concept because they believe they can enter Canada as long as they are not driving their vehicle. That is **incorrect**. Having Inadmissible status means you cannot enter, visit or travel to Canada.



Many other criminal convictions will prevent a non-Canadian citizen from crossing the border into Canada. For example, minor offenses like shoplifting, theft, possession of illegal substances, and unauthorized possession of a firearm often will often prevent entry. Any Federal or State Felony criminal conviction will surely deny entry into Canada.

## Canada and a DWI/DUI Conviction

Canada regards DWI/DUI as an extremely serious offense. A conviction for Driving Under the Influence (DUI or DWI) will qualify you as a member of the Inadmissible Class. Those non-Canadian citizens with such convictions will not be allowed to cross the border into Canada freely.

The Inadmissible status can be removed, after a period of **many** years, by applying for a *Minister's Approval of Rehabilitation*. Technically, you may be allowed to visit Canada before the Inadmissible status is removed. However, this requires you apply for and be granted a Temporary Resident Permit. The Temporary Resident Permit allows you to visit Canada for a single purpose or for a limited period (ie., a funeral). They are often very difficult to get..

Persons may apply for a Temporary Resident Permit, Approval of Rehabilitation, or Permission to Return to Canada either in Canada or at one these Canadian visa offices in New York:

[The Canadian Consulate General in Buffalo, NY](#)  
[The Canadian Consulate General in New York, New York](#)



In any event, consider spending your hard earned income in the United States where it will better benefit you and your fellow Americans.