



**a
youth
record
is
no
joke**



Travelling



**with a
Youth Record**



A YOUTH RECORD won't stop you from travelling within Canada,

but it **can stop** you from travelling to other countries.

Some countries won't let you in, even for a visit, if you have a record.

Being unable to travel to another country can keep you from doing things you want or need to do.

Here are just a few examples:

You might lose a chance at a job you want because you can't get into the country where the job is.

You might try to go to the United States with friends for a football game or a March break vacation and be stopped at the border.

You might have relatives you can't visit because they live in a country that won't let you in.

You might spoil a family holiday because you can't get permission to enter the country your family wants to visit.

Other countries may find out about Your Youth Record

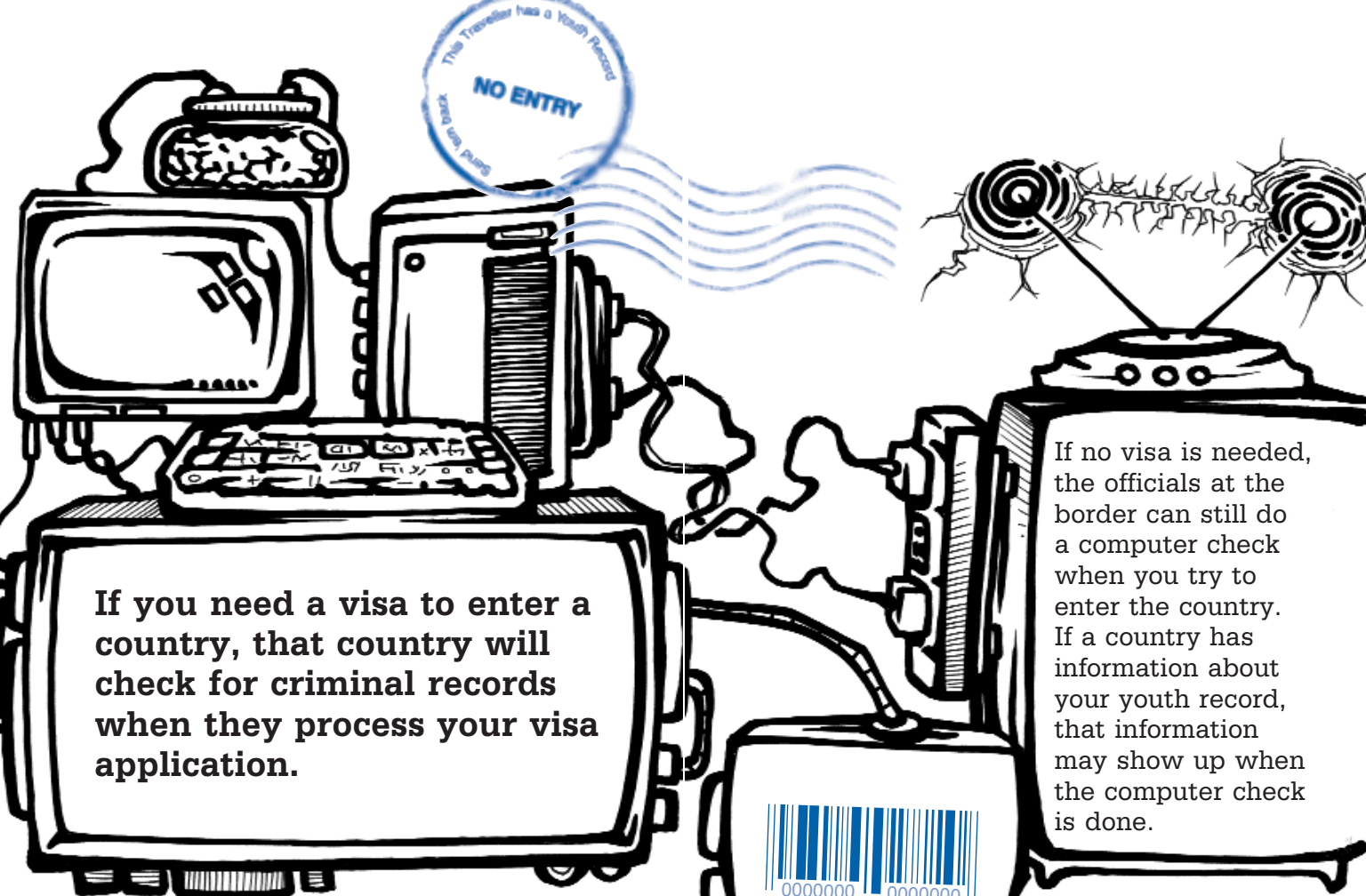


Records for most criminal offences are sent to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The **R.C.M.P. shares the adult records of Canadians trying to get into some countries** with the police and border officials of those countries. Youth records, however, are treated differently than adult records. Youth records are not supposed to be accessible to border officials in other countries, but it is possible that another country could find out about your record, especially if it is an open record.

If you committed a crime before you were 18, the R.C.M.P. will keep your youth record until it can be closed. **This can be up to 5 years** after you have finished your sentence. If you commit another crime before your record is closed, your record will show both offences until it is time to close the record of the second offence. During this time when your record is open, **other countries may be able to find out about your record.** If you commit another crime after you turn 18, but while your youth record is still open, your youth record will remain open indefinitely.



Air Mail Par avion



Send your passport back.
NO ENTRY
This Traveller has a Youth Record.

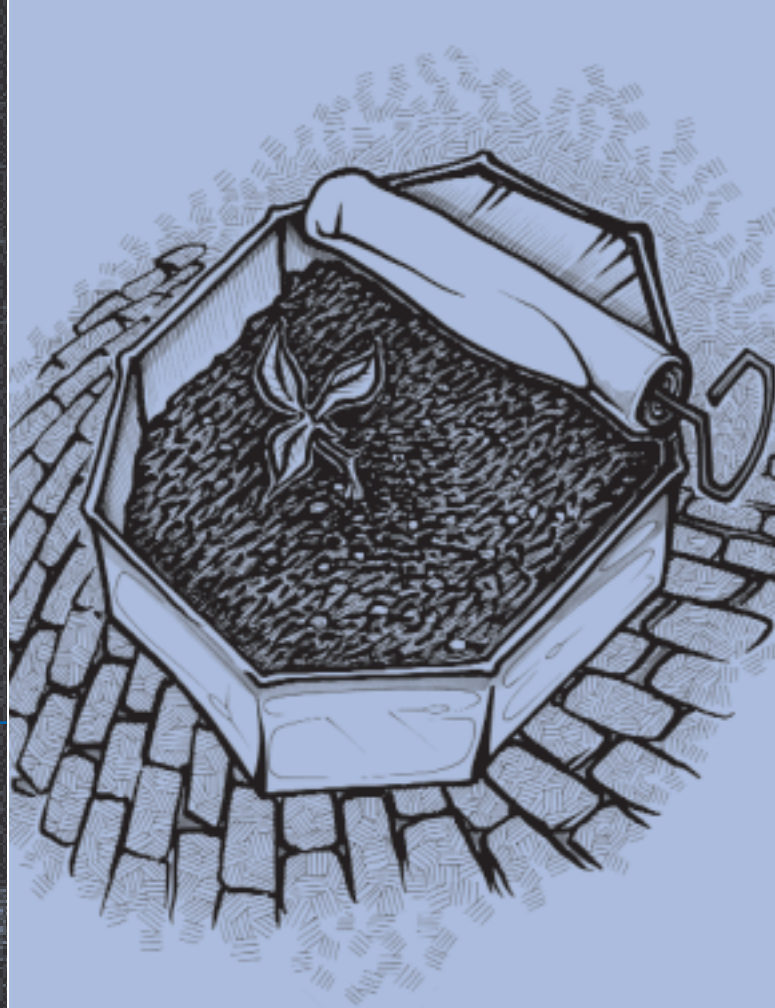
If you need a visa to enter a country, that country will check for criminal records when they process your visa application.

If no visa is needed, the officials at the border can still do a computer check when you try to enter the country. If a country has information about your youth record, that information may show up when the computer check is done.



**Other
countries
don't
have
to
close
your
youth
record**

Once another country gets your record, it can keep it in its computer files forever. It is only in Canada that the law says that your youth record has to be closed after a certain period of time. Other countries don't have to obey Canadian laws.



USA

Getting into

the **United States**



Most countries have laws to keep criminals out. Some countries are strict about this. The United States is one of those countries.

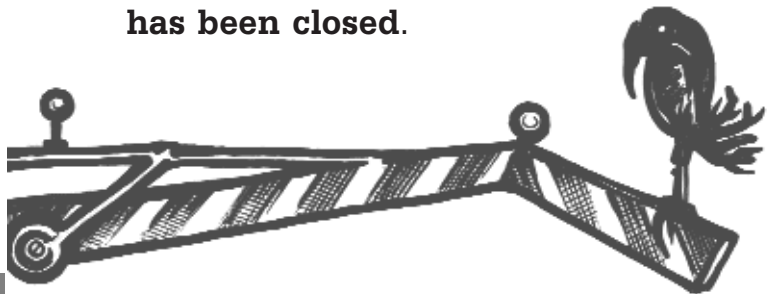
The United States is especially strict about drugs.

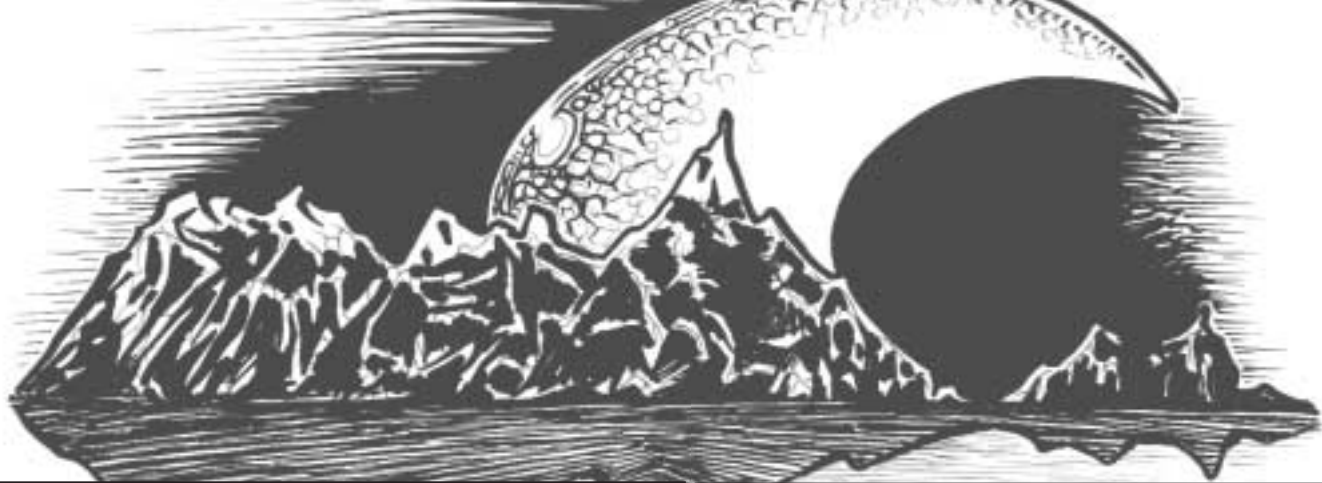
If a border official finds out that you have a record for a drug offence, you will probably **not be allowed into the United States** even for a visit.

There is always a chance that American border officials can get information on a youth record, especially if it is an open record. You can never know when you might be refused entry to the United States if you have a youth record. One time you might cross the border without the border official paying any attention to you. Another time, the official might do a computer check and find your record, but let you in anyway. **Each time you try to enter might be the time you won't be allowed in.**



Once American officials have your record in their files, it will remain there and can be used against you. It doesn't matter if it is a youth record, or how long ago you got it. **It will remain there even if your record in Canada has been closed.**





What to do about travel if you have a **YOUTH RECORD**

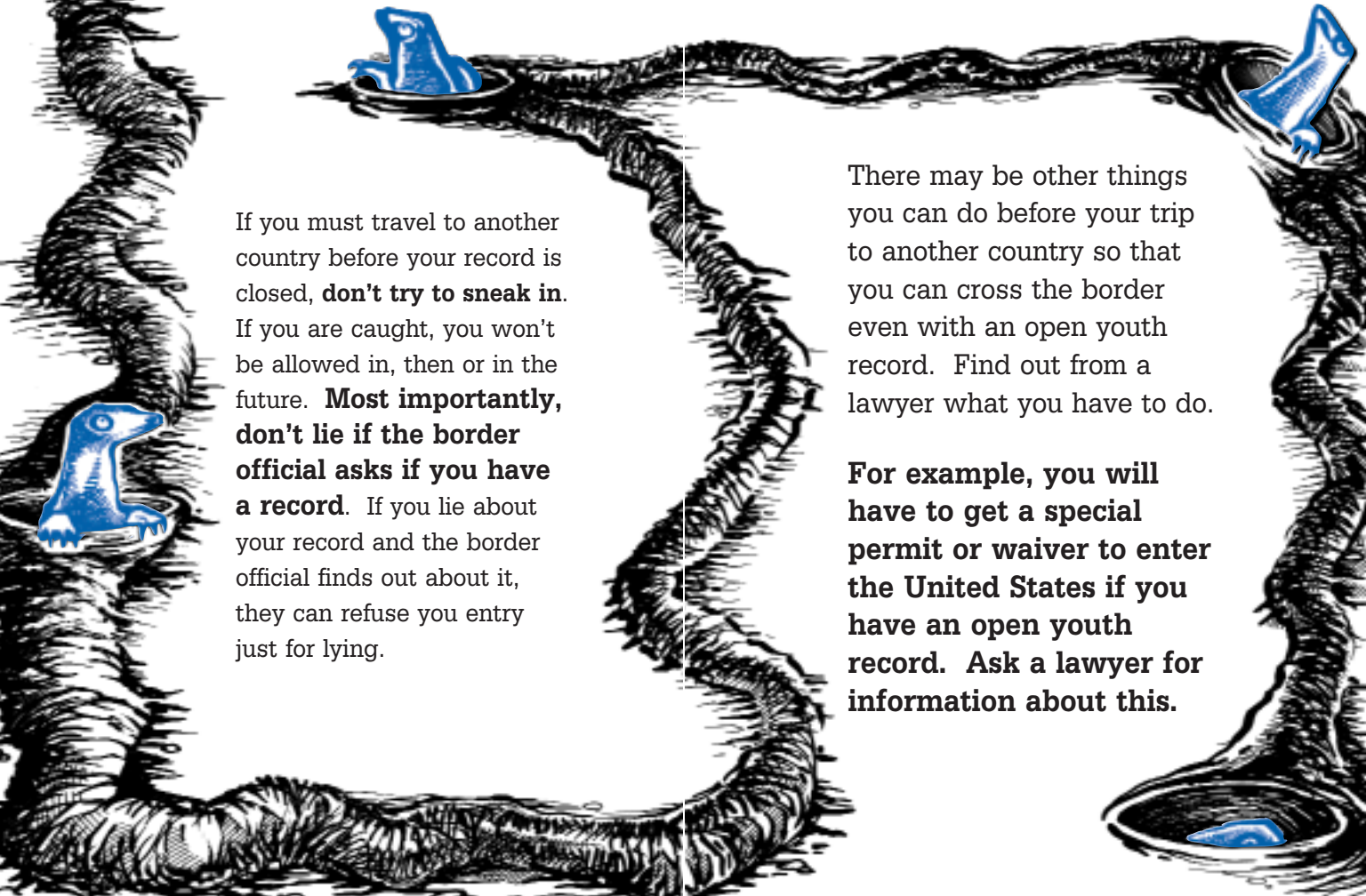
The best thing you can do is avoid traveling to other countries until you know your youth record in Canada has been closed. Find out how long your record is going to last. Don't try to travel outside of Canada until that time is over.

When it comes time to close your record, **make sure the R.C.M.P. has taken your file off the system.**

Go to your local police station with a photo ID and ask them to check the R.C.M.P. files for you. If your record is no longer in the R.C.M.P. active files, other countries should not be able to get it.

If your record is still open, it is a good idea to talk to a youth criminal lawyer before trying to travel outside of Canada.





If you must travel to another country before your record is closed, **don't try to sneak in.** If you are caught, you won't be allowed in, then or in the future. **Most importantly, don't lie if the border official asks if you have a record.** If you lie about your record and the border official finds out about it, they can refuse you entry just for lying.

There may be other things you can do before your trip to another country so that you can cross the border even with an open youth record. Find out from a lawyer what you have to do.

For example, you will have to get a special permit or waiver to enter the United States if you have an open youth record. Ask a lawyer for information about this.

This pamphlet has general information only. Each situation is unique. The law can also change. As well, policies and practices can change or vary. If you have a legal problem, contact a lawyer.



This pamphlet is part of a series produced by Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO). CLEO has publications on other areas of law as well. Most are free. For an order form call **416-408-4420, extension 33** or visit our web site at **<www.cleo.on.ca>**.

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