



Canadian Association of  
Professional Immigration Consultants

L'Association Canadienne des  
Conseillers Professionnels en Immigration

# Fraud-Free Immigration Guide

## I. Be honest

Honest applications are your best chance for a fraud-free Canadian immigration journey.

The Canadian immigration process can be overwhelming. Whether you're seeking to work, study, or move to Canada, it's easy to feel the pressure to speed up the process or make things "easier." Some individuals take shortcuts by bending the rules or submitting false information. While these actions may seem like a way to secure your future quickly, they often lead to legal consequences that could jeopardize everything.

Misrepresentation in immigration applications may appear minor. Some individuals may be tempted to falsify documents or hide important details to boost their chances. Here are some of the most common forms of misrepresentation:

- ✓ **Lying about work experience or education**  
Some applicants embellish or fabricate their professional background or educational qualifications to be eligible for certain immigration programs. However, these fabrications are often easily discovered through verification checks.
- ✓ **Hiding previous visa refusals**  
Some fail to disclose previous visa refusals or applications, which can lead to a finding of misrepresentation. Immigration officials will check your history, and omitting this kind of information can have serious consequences.
- ✓ **Using fake documents**  
Some submit forged documents, for example, forged language test results. This can lead to severe penalties. Immigration authorities have advanced tools for detecting fraudulent documents and attempting to pass off fake information is not worth the risk.

Misrepresentation in your immigration application can have devastating consequences:

- ✓ **A 5-year ban from applying again**  
If you are allegedly submitting false information or documents, you could face a five-year ban from applying for immigration again. This means any future attempts to immigrate could be blocked for this extended period.
- ✓ **A misrep record on your file**  
Once misrepresentation is detected, it leaves a stain on your immigration file.



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This can cause tremendous difficulties for future applications, whether for a visa, study permit, work permit, or permanent residency.

✓ **Enforcement Actions**

Misrepresentation could lead to enforcement actions, including loss of permanent resident status, or being removed from the country if you're in Canada. The best way to succeed in your immigration journey is by being honest and transparent at every step of the process.

Additionally, unauthorized representatives (UAPs) lacking proper authorization to offer Canadian immigration services often employ deceptive tactics to attract clients. They may present misrepresentations as “strategies” for achieving success. To ensure your application remains truthful and accurate, consider the following recommended steps:

✓ **Be honest in every detail**

Honesty is always the best policy when it comes to immigration applications. Even if you're unsure about a detail, don't try to hide it. Immigration authorities are thorough, and any inconsistencies in your application could lead to delays or rejections.

✓ **Engage an authorized representative, such as a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC), to ensure an efficient immigration process.**

RCICs, also known as immigration and citizenship consultants or immigration consultants, are authorized by Canadian immigration and citizenship law to provide Canadian immigration and citizenship services. They can help you navigate the complexities of your application and ensure its accuracy and completeness. Working with an immigration consultant can give you peace of mind and protect your legal interests. Be sure to check the College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants [website](#) to see if your representative is authorized.

✓ **If you're unsure, ask before submitting**

If you're ever uncertain about what to include or how to answer a question on your application, don't hesitate to ask. Whether it's reaching out to your authorized representative or researching official resources, it's always better to seek clarification than to guess. A small mistake could have large repercussions.

The immigration process is a journey where integrity should be your guide. Taking shortcuts or trying to deceive the system might seem tempting, but the risks far outweigh the rewards. An honest application will help you build a solid foundation for your future and prevent you from falling into immigration fraud.



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## II: Be vigilant

Canadian immigration consultation and service are legal practices that are permitted to be provided only by [authorized representatives](#) if there is any form of payment.

### 1. Understanding Immigration Fraud

Immigration fraud is a serious issue affecting individuals seeking to move to or stay in Canada. Scammers pose as licensed immigration consultants, employers, or government officials to steal money and personal information. Falling victim to fraud can result in financial loss, legal consequences, and even inadmissibility to Canada.

### 2. Common Immigration Scams & How to Avoid Them

#### ✓ Unauthorized Practitioners (UAPs)

- **Red Flags:** Unlicensed individuals offering immigration services.
- **Prevention:** Always verify a consultant's license on the [College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants \(CICC\) website](#). For lawyers and Quebec notaries, check the responsible governing bodies.

#### ✓ Job Offer Scams

- **Red Flags:** Fake job offers promising work permits or permanent residence, demands for payments for job placement.
- **Prevention:** Legitimate employers do not charge candidates for job offers or employment. Do not accept such an offer or position.

#### ✓ Phishing Emails & Fake IRCC Websites

- **Red Flags:** Emails, calls, or messages pretending to be from Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), or provincial immigration authorities asking for personal details or payment.
- **Prevention:** Call the IRCC Call Centre at 1-888-242-2100 to inquire or CBSA at 1-888-502-9060 to report suspected fraud.

#### ✓ Guaranteed Visa or Fast-Track Promises

- **Red Flags:** Beware of consultants who falsely claim to guarantee visa approval or expedite processing for a fee—this is a clear violation of professional standards.

UAPs often make such promises, putting you at risk. Stay informed and verify that your consultant is a licensed RCIC in good standing.

- **Prevention:** No one can guarantee visa approval. Processing times depend solely on IRCC.

### ✓ Fake Sponsorship & Family Reunification Scams

- **Red Flags:** Scammers posing as relatives or officials claiming they can speed up sponsorship applications for a fee.
- **Prevention:** Sponsorship applications follow strict IRCC guidelines. Always check the IRCC website for family class requirements and verify a representative's license on the CICC public register before hiring them.

### 3. How to Verify a Legitimate Immigration Consultant

1. Check their license on the [CICC website](#).
2. Ask for a written contract detailing services and fees, i.e., an initial consultation agreement for consultation and a service agreement for representation, which is mandatory for the immigration consultant to provide you with a copy.
3. Read the contract carefully and ensure it meets the requirements of the [Code of Professional Conduct](#), including outlining services, fees, responsibilities, refund policy, dispute resolution policy, etc.
4. Check the receipts for payments and invoices for services rendered, which are mandatory for RCICs.
5. Be cautious of high fees and cash-only payments.
6. Check the [IMM5476](#) form. The form is required for representatives. Unauthorized practitioners (UAPs) often avoid using this form because they cannot claim to be uncompensated representatives, nor can they list themselves as compensated without a valid RCIC or lawyer identification number. **Note, UAPs may impersonate authorized representatives. Therefore, verify the licence details of your representative.**

### 4. What to Do If You Encounter Immigration Fraud

#### ✚ Report the scam to:

- [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#): 1-888-495-8501



- College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants (CICC) to report UAPs.
- Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) for fraudulent applications.
- Local police if you have lost money or personal information.

## 5. Key Tips

- ✓ Only use Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultants (RCICs), lawyers, or notaries for immigration matters.
- ✓ Never sign blank documents or provide false information.
- ✓ Avoid offers that seem too good to be true—they usually are.
- ✓ Stay informed about new immigration scams and fraud tactics.
- ✓ Educate friends and family to prevent them from falling victim.

For more information, visit the [IRCC website](#) or consult an authorized representative.