



## Reporting Immigration Fraud: What to Do If You've Been Scammed

Immigration fraud is a serious issue that can have devastating consequences for individuals seeking to build a new life in Canada. Scammers prey on vulnerable individuals by promising guaranteed visas, offering fake job opportunities, or posing as [authorized representatives](#) like immigration consultants. If you have been a victim of immigration fraud, it is crucial to take immediate action to protect yourself and prevent others from falling into the same trap.

### Step 1: Gather Evidence

Before reporting fraud, collect as much evidence as possible to support your claim. This may include:

- Emails, text messages, or recorded phone calls from the scammer.
- Receipts or proof of payments made.
- Copies of any fraudulent documents received.
- Advertisements, websites, or social media profiles used by the scammer.

Having clear documentation will strengthen your case when reporting the fraud.

### Step 2: Report to the Authorities

If you have been scammed, report the incident to the appropriate authorities as soon as possible. Here's where you can file a complaint:

#### 1. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

IRCC investigates cases of fraud related to immigration applications. If you suspect fraud, you can report it by:

- Filling out the online form on the [IRCC website](#)
- Contacting IRCC's Call Centre at 1-888-242-2100 (within Canada)
- Email IRCC: [IRCC.CitizenshipFraudTips-Fraudedecitoyennete.IRCC@cic.gc.ca](mailto:IRCC.CitizenshipFraudTips-Fraudedecitoyennete.IRCC@cic.gc.ca) (outside Canada)

#### 2. Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA)



If you suspect someone is misrepresenting information or engaging in fraudulent activities related to immigration, report it to CBSA by:

- Calling the Border Watch Line at 1-888-502-9060.
- Submitting a report via their [website](#).

### **3. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)**

For fraud involving criminal activities (such as identity theft or financial scams), report it to the RCMP by visiting your local police station or filing a complaint through the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) at 1-888-495-8501 or [How to report fraud and scams in Canada](#)

### **4. The College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants (CICC)**

If you were deceived by an unauthorized practitioner (UAP), while reporting them to law enforcement authorities like CBSA is important, you may also report them to the CICC, the regulatory body for immigration consultants in Canada. You can file a complaint through their website: [Make a Complaint](#)

## **Step 3: Seek Legal Assistance**

Victims of immigration fraud may need legal advice to navigate their next steps. Consider:

- Consult a regulated Canadian immigration consultant (RCIC) or lawyer to assess your options and potentially recover lost funds.

## **Step 4: Protect Yourself from Future Scams**

To avoid becoming a victim of immigration fraud in the future:

- Verify credentials before hiring an immigration consultant or the other two types of authorized representatives. Always check if they are licensed by CICC, a provincial/territorial law society, or a Quebec notary.
- Be wary of guarantees. Nobody, including authorized representatives such as an immigration consultant or lawyer, can promise visa approvals.
- Always pay close attention to the written agreement.
- Check if the payment schedule follows the payment terms in the agreement and request receipts.



- Report suspicious ads or websites to prevent others from being scammed.

Reporting immigration fraud is crucial to protecting yourself and others from deceptive schemes. By taking immediate action and informing the appropriate authorities, you help strengthen Canada's immigration system and prevent future scams and fraudulent activity. If you or someone you know has been a victim, don't hesitate to speak up. Your report could save others from the same fate.

For more information on fraud prevention, see "[Fraud and scams](#)." Also, familiarize yourself with the departmental websites applicable to your situation so that you can make an informed decision.