

Each applicant for a Canadian Immigrant Visa, aged 18 or over, is required to prove that he or she has no criminal record. Police clearance certificates or certificates of non-criminal activity, as they are sometimes referred to, must be obtained from the country of current residence and from each country in which the applicant has resided for more than 6 months since his or her 18th birthday. Police clearance certificates are considered valid for a period of 6 months and they usually can be obtained through law enforcement offices or other government agencies. If police in a particular country refuse to issue a clearance, it would be helpful if they provided a written statement confirming that they refused to issue the clearance. In extenuating circumstances Canadian visa offices will waive the requirement to submit police clearance certificates.