

**DISCLAIMER:** This flier is for informational purposes and is not legal advice.



To be referred to a lawyer in the United States, call 1-800-566-7636 or 212-419-3737.

### To Get Legal Advice in the United States:

If you are traveling from the U.S. to Canada to ask the Canadian government for protection, consider getting legal advice in the U.S. first. For a referral to a legal service provider or to report fraud, call the New York State New Americans Hotline: 1-800-566-7636 (from a New York area code) or 212-419-3737. The hotline is open Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-9 p.m.

### To Get Legal Advice in Canada:

If you apply for asylum in Canada, you should contact a reputable attorney or legal service provider. Solidarity Across Borders can help you at 438-933-7654, [solidaritycrossborders.org](http://solidaritycrossborders.org) or [solidaritesansfrontiers@gmail.com](mailto:solidaritesansfrontiers@gmail.com). You can also contact P.R.A.I.D.A. at 514-284-0054 or Montreal Legal Aid 514-849-3671.

### Travel Information to Canada:

The maximum fee a taxi can charge to take you from the Plattsburgh bus station to the Canadian border is \$77.50 per trip. If a taxi takes you anywhere other than where you asked to go, or if they charge you more than \$77.50, call Plattsburgh Cares at 518-243-8292 or 518-240-8866.

### If You Are Stranded:

If you are stranded or need help in the Plattsburgh area or near the Champlain border, call Plattsburgh Cares at 518-243-8292 or 518-240-8866.

### Plattsburgh Taxis:

- City Taxi: 518-561-7777
- C&L Taxi: 518-572-3830 (Call or Text)
- Northern Taxi: 518-534-5166

Plattsburgh Cares  
P.O. Box 1932  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

518-243-8292 or 518-240-8866.

[PlattsburghCares.org](http://PlattsburghCares.org)  
[Information@PlattsburghCares.org](mailto:Information@PlattsburghCares.org)

# FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS CROSSING INTO CANADA



PLATTSBURGH  
CARES

If you are stranded or need help in the Plattsburgh area or near the Champlain border, contact:

Plattsburgh Cares  
518-243-8292/518-240-8866  
[support@plattsburghcares.org](mailto:support@plattsburghcares.org) or  
[information@plattsburghcares.org](mailto:information@plattsburghcares.org)  
[plattsburghcares.org](http://plattsburghcares.org)

## Crossing into Canada at Roxham Road (the IRREGULAR unofficial Crossing)

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### Things you need to know when crossing at Roxham Road:

- You will need to take a taxi to Roxham Road. The maximum fare cabs can charge is \$77.50.
- The short path at the end of Roxham Road leads to Canada. Canadian officials are there to warn everyone they will be arrested. No one on the American side will stop you on the short path to Canada.
- You can only cross one time, so all baggage must be carried over together.
- You may be told by Canadian officials to cross at the regular border instead, which is six miles away. By foot, this trip can be dangerous in cold weather.
- Once you cross at the irregular border, the Canadian Constitution applies, and you may be able to claim asylum.
- Everyone who crosses at the irregular border at Roxham Road is detained, interviewed and processed. If you want to make a claim for refugee status in Canada because you face harm in your home country, you must tell the government officials immediately.

- Once detained you will be taken to an office for a security interview with a Canadian border official. They will ask why you crossed and may take your phone, computer, and other documents to check them over.
- You will be taken to the main border crossing to be interviewed again by an immigration officer. The officer may try to discourage and challenge you, to test if you are committed to applying for asylum in Canada.
- At the interview, you have the right to obtain an interpreter and lawyer before answering questions.
- You may be asked if your home country should be notified of your presence in Canada. If you are afraid of returning home, ask for a lawyer before answering this question.
- After this second interview, you will be given some forms. One is to obtain health services. You will then be taken to Montreal to complete the asylum process if the officer has determined you are eligible to apply for asylum.
- In Montreal, you will be given a Basis of Claim (BOC) form. Follow all the instructions. You may need a reputable immigration attorney or legal service provider to help you. Contact Solidarity Across Borders for help at 438-933-7654. You can also contact P.R.A.I.D.A. at 514-284-0054 or Montreal Legal Aid 514-849-3671.

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## Crossing into Canada at the Regular OFFICIAL Border Crossing

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There is an agreement between the U.S. and Canada, so that, if you try to cross and apply for asylum at the regular, official border, you will be turned back and told to apply in the United States. There are only two exceptions:

- You can prove at the border that you have one of the following family members in Canada: spouse (including common-law and same-sex), legal guardian, adult child, parent, sibling, grand- parent, grandchild, aunt, uncle, niece or nephew.
- You can prove at the border that you are a child under the age of 18 with no family in the U.S. or Canada.

If you are turned away from Canada, you may be permanently banned from claiming asylum there. It is also very likely that you will be arrested by the U.S. government and may be detained in a jail. Even if you are not detained, you may face deportation from the United States.

If you already have a deportation order from the United States, you will not see a judge. You will be detained until the U.S. government can arrange for your deportation.

In the United States, you do not have a right to a free lawyer. You can hire a lawyer, but they will not be allowed to attend the interview at the border.