

**The Top 12 Things**

# **ALL IMMIGRANTS SHOULD AVOID IN THE UNITED STATES**



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**1. DO NOT  
USE/POSSESS/SELL/CULTIVATE  
OR HAVE ANY  
INVOLVEMENT WITH MARIJUANA  
(OR ANY DRUG!)**

Just because use of and possession of marijuana is no longer a crime in certain states (e.g. the State of California), it is STILL A VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW AND IMMIGRATION LAWS! If you use, possess, sell, cultivate or are otherwise involved at all in the cannabis or marijuana industry – or for that matter any other controlled substance – you are jeopardizing your immigration status. Do NOT do it!.

**2. DO NOT ENGAGE IN DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE,  
CHILD/SPOUSE ABUSE OR ANY  
TYPE OF VIOLENCE.**

Sometimes cultural norms are different, and you may have seen more hitting, slapping, spanking etc. between people in your family in your home country. Do NOT do this in the United States. It is a CRIME in the U.S. and it will put your immigration status at risk.

**3. DO NOT VOTE OR REGISTER  
TO VOTE!**

Even if you are an immigrant with lawful permanent residency, DO NOT VOTE in ANY elections in the US. It can RUIN your chances of obtaining citizenship and can make you deportable! Don't vote unless and until you become a U.S. Citizen, period!

**4. DO NOT EVER LIE  
SAYING YOU ARE A U.S.  
CITIZEN!**

Immigration Law considers “False Claims to US Citizenship” to be one of the worst immigration sins! It not only makes a person inadmissible, but also makes them deportable and there is NO WAIVER available! Do not do this!

**5. DO NOT LEAVE THE US  
WITHOUT CONSULTING  
YOUR  
ATTORNEY!**

Some Immigrants like certain visa holders and Lawful Permanent Residents (Green Card Holders) can leave the US largely without consequence. However, others will trigger a “10-year bar” upon leaving and will not be eligible to reenter the US for 10 years without first obtaining a difficult waiver. Because the consequences are so high, we recommend consulting with your immigration attorney BEFORE you ever leave the US.

**6. DO NOT HELP (IN ANY  
WAY) ANY OTHER  
IMMIGRANT  
TO ENTER THE US  
WITHOUT PERMISSION,  
EVEN YOUR  
FAMILY!**

The law says that if you help, assist, abet, aid or otherwise participate in the “smuggling” of another immigrant into the United States, you will become “inadmissible” and “deportable.” There is a narrow waiver available only if 1) the person helped was your “spouse, parent, son or daughter” and no one else and 2) you can show that your helping them was essential for “humanitarian purposes,” to “assure family unity” or “otherwise in the public interest.” You should not pay money to any “coyote” or otherwise pay for transportation (e.g. bus tickets) for the person. Please avoid this issue, and please do not assist people to enter the US unlawfully.

## **7. DO NOT DRIVE WITHOUT A LICENSE!**

Some states, including California, allow undocumented immigrants in certain situations to apply for drivers' licenses. Do NOT apply without consulting a good immigration lawyer (in certain situations, there are risks)! However, generally it is MUCH better to have a license if you are going to be driving a car, since "Driving Without a License" can be a crime and sometimes can trigger arrests and even immigration enforcement against you!

## **8. DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES**

This includes all crimes. This includes participating in any way in criminal street gangs, in illegal gambling like cock fights and dog fights, and also in more "white collar" crimes like tax evasion and welfare (and other) fraud! Illegal activities cause SERIOUS problems for an immigration case! Don't do them!

## **9. DO NOT USE ANYONE ELSE'S IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS!**

In our office, we've seen people who have used their cousin's work authorization card, a sibling's visa, or a total stranger's passport. These are all forms of "Immigration Fraud" and cause a person to become both inadmissible and deportable!

**10. DO NOT VIOLATE THE TERMS OF YOUR VISA, ASYLUM, GREEN CARD, OR OTHER STATUS WITHOUT FIRST HAVING A SOLID BACKUP PLAN!**

If you have a valid, legal immigration status, do NOT give it up lightly. If you are planning to “switch” to another immigration category, we recommend you maintain your first category until you have actually won the second. This way, you always have a backup!

**11. DO NOT REGISTER FOR PUBLIC BENEFITS**

without consulting with an attorney! You want to be sure to understand the latest public charge laws first. Sometimes receiving public assistance can affect your eligibility for a green card.

**12. DO NOT ENTER INTO A FALSE RELATIONSHIP TO TRY TO FIX YOUR IMMIGRATION STATUS!**

Marriage Fraud causes an immigrant to become deportable and can cause a serious problem for your immigration future. If you are going to get married to a US citizen, make sure it is a real marriage – and not solely for immigration purposes!

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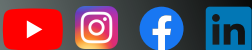
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