

Q What if Immigration catches me?

You will probably be detained, and Immigration will decide whether to release you on bond or deport you.

You have a better chance of obtaining bond if you can show that you are not going to run away, that you have family and friends nearby, a steady job, and a place to live.

Q How can I get more information?

To find an attorney who works with immigration issues, go to www.aila.org. For more information, go to <http://reentry.mplp.org>. To find an attorney, contact the State Bar of Michigan Lawyer Referral Service at (800) 968-0738. If you cannot afford an attorney, ask to be referred to your local legal aid office.

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This brochure can be downloaded in PDF format from the State Bar of Michigan website at <http://www.michbar.org/programs/criminalissues.cfm>.

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JUSTICE INITIATIVES

QUICK GUIDE

Got a Record? **Know Your Rights**

Immigration



Immigration

Q Will I get deported because I was convicted of a crime?

Depending on your immigration status, your age, how long you have been in the U.S., how you entered the U.S., if you have a U.S. citizen spouse or children, and the nature of the conviction, you may or may not be deported.

Q What if I have a Green Card?

You may still be deported if you are convicted of any of the following crimes:

- Drug or gun offense
- Fraud, money laundering, bad check, or similar offense if:
 - Committed within five years of admission to the U.S., and
 - Punishable by one year in prison (even if sentence is less)
- Domestic violence, stalking, or child abuse or neglect offense
- Crime of violence (murder, rape, theft, or burglary)

Q What if I do not have a Green Card?

You may be deported if you are convicted of any of the following crimes:

- Drug or gun offense
- Fraud, money laundering, bad check, or similar offense
- Domestic violence, stalking, or child abuse or neglect offense
- Crime of violence (murder, rape, theft, or burglary)

Q Where can I get help?

Have your criminal defense attorney consult an immigration attorney for specific advice *before* you take a plea or admit guilt.

You may still be deported even if you do not go to jail, so be very careful not to take a plea that keeps you out of jail but gets you deported.

The American Immigration Lawyers Association website maintains a list of Michigan attorneys specializing in immigration law at www.aila.org.

Q What if I already took a plea or was convicted?

It may be possible to expunge or erase your conviction, but you must be very careful how it is done to avoid immigration problems.

It may be possible to raise defenses to deportation if your spouse or child is a U.S. citizen and depending on the crime and how long you have been in the U.S.