

## Some Basic Laws in the U.S.

Like other countries, the United States of America has many laws and rules. It is very difficult to learn all the laws and rules within a short period. However, you can start with the few that you need to know about now. These laws also vary when you travel from one state to another state.

1	<b>Alcohol Cigarettes</b>	It is against the law to sell or give alcohol and/or cigarettes to a minor – the age of minors for these offences may vary from state to state.
2	<b>Alcohol Consumption</b>	You may be fined for drinking alcohol in public – e.g., while walking on the street or in a park.
3	<b>Bribery</b>	Bribery is illegal in the U.S. You do not bribe police officers or other public officials; tipping public officials is also not acceptable in the U.S.
4	<b>Change of Address</b>	As a refugee, you are required by law to inform the US Citizenship and Immigration Services every time you change your address until you get your Green Card.
5	<b>Child Neglect</b>	It is illegal to leave children under the age of 12 unattended – this age varies among states
6	<b>Child Support</b>	You are required by law to financially support your children until they are 18 years old, even if the children are not living with you.
7	<b>Driving</b>	It is illegal to drive a car that is not registered or insured. It is illegal to drive while intoxicated or under the influence of drugs. It is illegal to drive without a U.S. driver's license. It is illegal to ride in or drive a car without a seat belt on. It is illegal for infants/children to ride in a car without being in a safety seat.
8	<b>Drugs</b>	It is illegal to purchase, sell or use drugs. 'Khat,' 'qat,' or 'chat' is illegal in the U.S.
9	<b>Female Circumcision</b>	This practice is not allowed in the U.S. It is a very serious offence.
10	<b>Fraud</b>	It is against the law to lie in order to get public assistance, immigration benefits and/or other public services. You may be fined, imprisoned, and/or deported.
11	<b>Human Trafficking</b>	To bring people to the United States in order to exploit them sexually or economically is illegal and can lead to imprisonment and/or deportation.
12	<b>Hunting &amp; Fishing</b>	It may be unlawful to hunt and/or fish without a permit
13	<b>Incest</b>	It may be an offense to have sexual activity with your close family members (other than spouse).
14	<b>Jay-Walking</b>	You may be fined for walking across the street outside of a designated area.
15	<b>Littering</b>	You may be fined if you throw trash on the street or out the window of a car.
16	<b>Marriage Age</b>	In most states, there is a specific age below which people are not allowed to marry.
17	<b>Military Service</b>	All males 18-25 in the U.S. must register with the Selective Service, a government agency that can call individuals to military service.
18	<b>Money Transfer</b>	You may be fined for transferring money without license and/or on behalf of other people
19	<b>Nudity/Indecency</b>	You may be fined for exposing your private parts in public.
20	<b>Physical Abuse</b>	Hitting, punching, threatening, and mistreating your spouse and children is Domestic Violence – it is an illegal and punishable offence in the U.S. Your children may be taken away from you if you abuse them. You may also be deported.
21	<b>Police</b>	You should always obey a police officer; disobeying may lead to imprisonment.
22	<b>Polygamy</b>	It is illegal to be married to more than one person at a time.
23	<b>Prostitution</b>	Prostitution, including soliciting a prostitute, is an offense for which you could be imprisoned and/or deported.
24	<b>School</b>	Children aged 6-16 are required by law to attend school.
25	<b>Sex</b>	It is illegal to have sex with minors (persons under 18 years of age), even with their consent.
26	<b>Sexual Harassment</b>	Offensive comments or behaviors of a sexual nature are illegal in the work place. Any comments of a sexual or personal nature is considered offensive
27	<b>Shoplifting</b>	The taking of goods from a store or street vendor without paying is illegal.
28	<b>Smoking</b>	You may not be allowed to smoke in some public places. Check regulations in advance.
29	<b>Urinating and Defecating in Public</b>	It is an offense to urinate and/or defecate in public areas. You may be fined up to \$500.
30	<b>Treatment of Animals</b>	It is illegal to sacrifice animals, abuse or neglect pets, or to kill animals for food in one's home
31	<b>Trespass</b>	It may be an offense for you and/or your animals to go into somebody else's premises without permission.

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) can revoke your status as a refugee if you are convicted of a serious crime like dealing in drugs, murder, arson, terrorism, etc.