

Scenario 9:

At the Border

The time your youth record lasts has **nothing to do with turning 18**.

How old you are when your record is closed depends on how old you were when you were sentenced, and how long the sentence lasted. There are **time periods** that apply.

At the end of these time periods youth records are closed (“sealed”) and cannot be disclosed to anyone. Youth are no longer regarded as having committed any offence. This is different from adult records that are permanent.

If you have an open or closed youth record, **speak to a lawyer** who has experience in youth criminal law **before you go to the United States or other countries**.

You cannot assume that the United States will not know about your record. It is only in Canada that the law says that a youth record has to be closed after a certain period of time. **Other countries follow their own laws**, not those of Canada.

If another country knows about your youth record, they could keep it in their computer forever.