

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	Alcohol Cigarettes	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	Alcohol Consumption	You may be fined for drinking alcohol in public – e.g., while walking on the street or in a park.
3	Bribery	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	Change of Address	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	Child Neglect	It is illegal to leave children under the age of 12 unattended – this age varies among states
6	Child Support	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	Driving	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	Drugs	It is illegal to purchase, sell or use drugs. 'Khat,' 'qat,' or 'chat' is illegal in the U.S.
9	Female Circumcision	This practice is not allowed in the U.S. It is a very serious offence.
10	Fraud	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	Human Trafficking	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	Hunting & Fishing	It may be unlawful to hunt and/or fish without a permit
13	Incest	It may be an offense to have sexual activity with your close family members (other than spouse).
14	Jay-Walking	You may be fined for walking across the street outside of a designated area.
15	Littering	You may be fined if you throw trash on the street or out the window of a car.
16	Marriage Age	In most states, there is a specific age below which people are not allowed to marry.
17	Military Service	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	Money Transfer	You may be fined for transferring money without license and/or on behalf of other people
19	Nudity/Indecency	You may be fined for exposing your private parts in public.
20	Physical Abuse	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	Police	You should always obey a police officer; disobeying may lead to imprisonment.
22	Polygamy	It is illegal to be married to more than one person at a time.
23	Prostitution	Prostitution, including soliciting a prostitute, is an offense for which you could be imprisoned and/or deported.
24	School	Children aged 6-16 are required by law to attend school.
25	Sex	It is illegal to have sex with minors (persons under 18 years of age), even with their consent.
26	Sexual Harassment	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	Shoplifting	The taking of goods from a store or street vendor without paying is illegal.
28	Smoking	You may not be allowed to smoke in some public places. Check regulations in advance.
29	Urinating and Defecating in Public	It is an offense to urinate and/or defecate in public areas. You may be fined up to \$500.
30	Treatment of Animals	It is illegal to sacrifice animals, abuse or neglect pets, or to kill animals for food in one's home
31	Trespass	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.