

How Do I Know if I Have a Conviction?

If you have ever been arrested or convicted of a crime, it could impact whether an immigration judge will order your deportation or grant you a bond. But sometimes, you must have been convicted of a crime for your criminal case to impact your immigration case.

When the immigration laws talk about a **conviction**, they mean:



A formal judgment of
guilt entered by the
court

OR

A plea of guilty or nolo contendere
+
Some form of punishment



EXAMPLES

CONVICTION

- Guilty verdict
- Guilty plea + payment of fine or other punishment
- Nolo contendere plea + payment of fine or other punishment
- Diversionary programs that involve a formal plea, admission of guilt, and/or punishment
- Expungement
- Withdrawal (for any reason other than a constitutional or statutory defect)
- Vacated (for any reason other than a constitutional or statutory defect)

NOT CONVICTION

- Acquittal
- Dismissal
- Vacated (for constitutional or statutory defect)
- Juvenile delinquency
- Diversionary programs that do not involve formal plea, punishment, or admission of guilt
- Withdrawal (for constitutional or statutory defect)