



If I have immigration status, but have been convicted of a crime, could it trigger my deportation?

You may be deportable if your conviction is:

- Drug-related (anything other than one possession of 30 grams or less of marijuana)
- High-speed flight
- Failure to register as a sex offender
- Related to espionage or treason
- Firearm-related
- A crime of domestic violence, child abuse, or violation of a protection order
- Human trafficking
- One or more “crimes involving moral turpitude”
- An “aggravated felony”

What is an “aggravated felony”?

In general, it is a crime that fits in to the category of the most serious crimes under the immigration laws. To determine whether your crime is an “aggravated felony,” you need to know the exact crime you were convicted of and in which state. Then, a lawyer needs to read the law to determine exactly what you were convicted of doing. If what you were convicted of doing matches the immigration law’s definition of an “aggravated felony,” then the judge may be able to find that your crime is one.

What is a “crime involving moral turpitude”? There is no one definition. Generally, it means that the crime you were convicted of requires that you did it on purpose (acted with intent) and also that what you were convicted of doing is considered to be morally wrong in the eyes of the law. To find out if the crime that you were convicted of is a crime involving moral turpitude, you need to know the exact crime that you were convicted of and in which state. A lawyer will need to read the law to see exactly what the crime you were convicted of says that you did. If that crime in that state is the same as what the immigration laws say is a crime involving moral turpitude, the judge may be able to find that your crime is one.