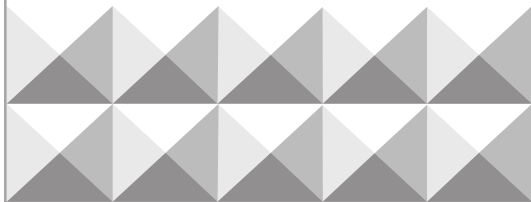


BCCLA POCKET GUIDE TO ELECTRONIC BORDER SEARCHES



BCCLA.ORG

AFTER YOU CROSS

If you have been searched:

Write down exactly what happened. Record the officer's ID numbers, what was said, and what the officers did with your device.

Contact the BCCLA and tell us about it! Everything we learn about CBSA searches helps us make this guide better.

If your device has been seized or detained:

Stay calm. Yelling will not get your device back, and might have other consequences.

Ask why.

Keep your receipt. You will be given a receipt for anything that is detained. Make sure the copy you get is legible – can you read what they've written? Keep it so you can get your device back later.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This card has been prepared and published for information and educational purposes only. It is not legal advice. Individuals with specific legal questions or problems should seek advice from a qualified lawyer.



BEFORE YOU CROSS

Get ready in advance.

Use the BCCLA's online Electronic Device Search Handbook to secure your gear before you leave home. The best protection takes time to prepare.

Don't bring what you don't need.

Only carry the data you absolutely must have across the border. If you can, download it on the other side, don't carry it with you.

Password protect it.

Make sure your computer or smartphone requires a password to log in.

Clear your cookies.

Empty your web browser cache, clear your history, and erase your cookies.

Turn it off.

Make sure your computer is powered off before you cross the border.

WHILE YOU CROSS

You should:

Be polite. Being courteous will get you a long way.

Be firm. If you refuse to give your password, you can expect to be asked again. If you are

sure you do not want to give it, do not give it.

Stay calm. Do not panic, and do not raise your voice. Both will just make matters worse.

You can:

Refuse to give your password. This might protect your data, but it can also result in your electronic device being detained for further inspection.

Tell officers if you have privileged or confidential data. They are supposed to take precautions to protect it.

Refuse to show officers how to use your electronic device.

You can't:

Refuse to be searched.

