

## § 1101. Definitions

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(f) For the purposes of this Act—

No person shall be regarded as, or found to be, **a person of good moral character** who, during the period for which good moral character is required to be established, is, or was—

- (1) a habitual drunkard;
- (2) [Repealed]
- (3) a member of one or more of the classes of persons, whether inadmissible or not, described in paragraphs (2)(D), (6)(E), and (10)(A) of section 212(a) of this Act [[8 USCS § 1182\(a\)](#)]; or subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 212(a)(2) [[8 USCS § 1182\(a\)\(2\)](#)] and subparagraph (C) thereof [of such section] (except as such paragraph relates to a single offense of simple possession of 30 grams or less of marihuana), if the offense described therein, for which such person was convicted or of which he admits the commission, was committed during such period;
- (4) one whose income is derived principally from illegal gambling activities;
- (5) one who has been convicted of two or more gambling offenses committed during such period;
- (6) one who has given false testimony for the purpose of obtaining any benefits under this Act;
- (7) one who during such period has been confined, as a result of conviction, to a penal institution for an aggregate period of one hundred and eighty days or more, regardless of whether the offense, or offenses, for which he has been confined were committed within or without such period;
- (8) one who at any time has been convicted of an aggravated felony (as defined in subsection (a)(43)); or
- (9) one who at any time has engaged in conduct described in section 212(a)(3)(E) [[8 USCS § 1182\(a\)\(3\)\(E\)](#)] (relating to assistance in Nazi persecution, participation in genocide, or commission of acts of torture or extrajudicial killings) or 212(a)(2)(G) [[8 USCS § 1182\(a\)\(2\)\(G\)](#)] (relating to severe violations of religious freedom).

The fact that any person is not within any of the foregoing classes shall not preclude a finding that for other reasons such person is or was not of good moral character. In the case of an alien who makes a false statement or claim of citizenship, or who registers to vote or votes in a Federal, State, or local election (including an initiative, recall, or referendum) in violation of a lawful restriction of such registration or voting to citizens, if each natural parent of the alien (or, in the case of an adopted alien, each adoptive parent of the alien) is or was a citizen (whether by birth or naturalization), the alien permanently resided in the United States prior to attaining the age of 16, and the alien reasonably believed at the time of such statement, claim, or violation that he or she was a citizen, no finding that the alien is, or was, not of good moral character may be made based on it.

## § 1227. Deportable aliens

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### (2) Criminal offenses.

#### (A) General crimes.

##### (i) Crimes of moral turpitude. Any alien who—

(I) is convicted of a **crime involving moral turpitude** committed within five years (or 10 years in the case of an alien provided lawful permanent resident status under section 245(j) [[8 USCS § 1255\(j\)](#)]) after the date of admission, and

(II) is convicted of a crime for which a sentence of one year or longer may be imposed, is deportable.

(ii) Multiple criminal convictions. Any alien who at any time after admission is convicted of two or more **crimes involving moral turpitude**, not arising out of a single scheme of criminal misconduct, regardless of whether confined therefor and regardless of whether the convictions were in a single trial, is deportable.

## § 1182. Inadmissible aliens

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### (2) Criminal and related grounds.

#### (A) Conviction of certain crimes.

(i) In general. Except as provided in clause (ii), any alien convicted of, or who admits having committed or who admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of—

(I) a **crime involving moral turpitude** (other than a purely political offense) or an attempt or conspiracy to commit such a crime, or

(II) a violation of (or a conspiracy or attempt to violate) any law or regulation of a State, the United States, or a foreign country relating to a controlled substance (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act ([21 U.S.C. 802](#))), is inadmissible.

(ii) Exception. Clause (i)(I) shall not apply to an alien who committed only one crime if—

(I) the crime was committed when the alien was under 18 years of age, and the crime was committed (and the alien released from any confinement to a prison or correctional institution imposed for the crime) more than 5 years before the date of application for a visa or other documentation and the date of application for admission to the United States, or

(II) the maximum penalty possible for the crime of which the alien was convicted (or which the alien admits having committed or of which the acts that the alien admits having committed constituted the essential elements) did not exceed imprisonment for one year and, if the alien was convicted of such crime, the alien was not sentenced to a term of imprisonment in excess of 6 months (regardless of the extent to which the sentence was ultimately executed).