

INTERPOL Red Notices and CCF Applications

Practical Legal Guide - Updated September 2026

This guide provides general legal information and does not constitute individualized legal advice. Procedures and INTERPOL rules may change; applicants should consult the current INTERPOL and CCF materials before filing.

1. INTERPOL Notices: General Framework

INTERPOL is the international criminal-police cooperation organization connecting 196 member countries. Its colour-coded Notices and Diffusions allow national authorities to exchange police information and cooperation requests. A Notice is not, by itself, a judgment of guilt.

2. What Is a Red Notice?

A Red Notice is a request to law-enforcement authorities worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition, surrender or similar lawful action. It is based on an arrest warrant or equivalent judicial decision issued by the requesting jurisdiction. A Red Notice is not an international arrest warrant, and each member country determines the legal effect of a Red Notice under its own domestic law.

3. How Can a Person Find Out Whether INTERPOL Holds Data About Them?

The public Red Notice database is not complete: most Red Notices are restricted to law-enforcement use. A person who wishes to know whether INTERPOL processes data concerning them may submit an access request to the Commission for the Control of INTERPOL's Files (CCF). The CCF is an independent and impartial body responsible for reviewing whether personal data processed through INTERPOL channels complies with INTERPOL's rules.

4. Access, Correction and Deletion Requests

The CCF may consider requests for access to personal data and requests for correction or deletion of data. The Commission does not determine guilt or innocence, conduct criminal investigations, decide national extradition proceedings, or give assurances that a person can travel without risk of arrest.

5. Current Submission Procedure

As of 26 March 2026, requests to the CCF must, as a rule, be submitted through INTERPOL's dedicated secure online CCF portal. Email and postal submissions are no longer accepted except where the Commission recognizes exceptional circumstances under its Operating Rules.

Applicants or their authorized representatives should prepare a complete written submission and supporting documentation. Depending on the request, relevant materials may include:

- a valid identity document;
- any available Red Notice or diffusion reference information;

- a clear description of the relief requested (access, correction and/or deletion);
- court decisions, extradition decisions, asylum or protection decisions, or other official records relevant to the lawfulness and accuracy of the data;
- evidence relevant to allegations of political, military, religious or racial predominance under Article 3 of INTERPOL's Constitution, where applicable;
- material concerning accuracy, proportionality, seriousness, due process or fundamental-rights concerns; and
- proof of authority where the request is submitted by a representative.

6. Legal Grounds Commonly Raised

Challenges are case-specific. Depending on the facts, applicants may rely on INTERPOL's Constitution, the Rules on the Processing of Data and CCF practice. Article 3 of the Constitution strictly prohibits INTERPOL from undertaking activities of a political, military, religious or racial character. INTERPOL also reviews Red Notices for compliance with Articles 2 and 3 of its Constitution and with the publication criteria contained in the Rules on the Processing of Data.

7. What Happens After Submission?

The CCF first examines admissibility and may request additional information. Where a request is admitted, the Commission may consult the INTERPOL General Secretariat, the National Central Bureau that supplied the data and other relevant entities. The applicant receives the Commission's decision in accordance with the applicable rules. A request may also be made for revision of a CCF decision where the conditions for revision are met.

8. National Records and Travel Risk

The CCF's competence is limited to data processed in the INTERPOL Information System. It cannot order a national authority to delete a domestic arrest warrant or decide a domestic extradition case. Where INTERPOL data is cancelled for non-compliance, member countries are informed and requested to update their national databases; nevertheless, a separate national warrant or national record may continue to have legal effect until the competent national authority acts. Travel-risk questions therefore require country-specific legal advice.

9. Practical Recommendations

- Use the current CCF online portal and follow the portal's instructions exactly.
- Keep the submission focused, chronological and supported by primary documents where possible.
- Distinguish clearly between the underlying national criminal case and the separate question of whether INTERPOL may lawfully process the data.
- Where asylum, non-refoulement, political-motivation or fair-trial concerns are relevant, support them with official decisions and reliable country information.
- Seek qualified legal advice where arrest, extradition or travel risk is immediate.

Official sources consulted: INTERPOL Member Countries; About Red Notices; CCF; How to Submit a Request; INTERPOL Constitution; Rules on the Processing of Data.