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# Citizenship and criminal record

## Citizenship and criminal record [1]

Submitted by Chief Editor on Jun 9th 2010

In 2001 I was charged with shoplifting (retail fraud 3rd degree in michigan. I was convicted and paid fine and 7 days community service. In 2005 i got my green card. The case was expunged in 2008. Ever since 2001 i do not have any other criminal record in the last 9 years. Would this be a problem during the citizenship cause the application says good moral character in the last 5 years. My case is 9 years old and so i satisfy the 5 year rule for good moral character but not sure.

### **ANSWER:**

Generally speaking, *USCIS* looks at the last five years preceding the application, but they CAN go back as long as they wish for adjudicating good moral character. My guess is, you should be fine.

**Unless the context shows otherwise, all answers here were provided by [Rajiv](#) [2] and were compiled and reported by our editorial team from comments and blog on [immigration.com](#) [3]**

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