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U.S. Passport Requirements And Your Papers

For traveling to foreign countries, you are going to need a passport. If you have had one in the past and it is more than fifteen years old or if you have never had one before, you will need to know about the US passport requirements. Knowing what you will need in advance will save you a lot of time when you are ready to apply.

A Passport Is Important

When we go to another country, proper passports, either books or cards, are required. This also includes the countries we share borders with. Formerly this was not a requirement as we could cross freely. In order to get one, you will need to have the right documents before you begin.

Form DS-11

For your first passport, you have to apply in person at an acceptance facility or a passport agency. This could be a Post Office or library designated to accept applications. The application form, the DS-11, is available online and can be filled out on your computer or by hand.

Passport Offices

After you have filled in your application form with everything but your signature, take it to either a Post Office or an acceptance facility. At that time, they will collect your documents and verify your signature. You will also pay for the passport at this time.

Required Documents

Documents that will be required will show your citizenship. Birth certificates from your state of birth are required to be certified, including both parents' names. If born abroad, you will need a consular report or, if naturalized, you will need a certificate of naturalization.

Alternative Documents

Early public records along with a letter of no record will work as secondary evidence if you do not have your birth certificate. Some births are not recorded in a timely manner, within a year of birth, but delayed birth certificates are available. Again, this will be secondary evidence.

Passports For Children

For children born abroad, applying for a passport will require a few more documents. A statement about the American parents residence and length of time in the States and the marriage certificate will be needed. The foreign birth certificate will need to be translated into English as well.

Photocopy Of Records

Photocopies of the required documents will also be needed. Copy on one side of the page only and be sure that nothing else is on the paper. Be sure to copy both sides of all of your documents.

Passport Versions

Paying for your passport will be based on the type you are applying for. You can choose between the book or the card. Persons under sixteen will not pay as much as an adult. And you can pay extra to receive your passport quicker.

Passport Photos

You will need to have a photo taken or can use one that has been taken within the last six months as long as it meets strict protocols. If you choose to do it yourself, make sure you understand what they require. If you use a

photographer, be sure to tell them that it is a passport photo. The photographer will already know of the background colors and size requirements.

The [U.S. passport requirements](#) are all available online. As well as the complete list of documents that you will need. When you have your documents, photos and your money ready, you can go to the facility that you have chosen and make your [USA passport application](#) application. Four to six weeks later, you should receive your passport.

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