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Frequently Asked Questions

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General

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How much does a U.S. passport cost?

I have a life or death emergency in a foreign country and need a passport. What should I do?

I am preparing for official travel. How do I obtain my diplomatic, official or regular no-fee passport?

My passport has already been issued and mailed to me, but I have not received it. What do I do?

Will I receive my new passport and my documents back in one envelope?

I am traveling very soon. How do I get a passport quickly?

How long does it take to get a passport?

Who should have a valid U.S. passport?

Where are the instructions for filling out the passport forms?

How many blank visa pages do I need to travel?

How long is a passport valid and is it true that it needs to have at least 6 months of validity remaining?

I'm renewing my passport. Do I get the old one back?

I was recently married/divorced. How do I change my name on my passport?

Why is there an execution fee for the Passport and Passport Card?

How do I order applications in bulk?

I found someone's lost passport. What should I do with it?

My passport has been damaged. Can I continue to use this passport?

My gender has changed since my last passport. What do I do?

Can I pay online?

My deceased family member still has a valid passport in his/her name. Should I turn it in to be canceled?

Can I get extra visa pages for my passport?

What counts as the “proof of international travel” required to apply at a passport agency?

Do I need a passport to fly domestically?

I have a passport, but I've changed addresses. Do I need to update my passport?

I got a letter in the mail or an email about my application. What should I do?

Minors (Under age 16)

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What do I do if my child is too young to sign his or her passport book?

Does a minor under 16 need to have parental or legal guardian consent when applying for a passport?

What is the Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program (CPIAP)?

How do I renew my child's passport?

Social Security Number Requirement

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Do I have to provide my Social Security number on my passport application?

What if I don't have a Social Security number?

What if I am applying for a passport for my child who does not have a Social Security number yet?

What if I can't remember my Social Security number?

What if I have an emergency and need to travel but cannot locate my Social Security number?

U.S. Passport Card

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What is the passport card?

Why can't I use the passport card to fly to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, or Bermuda?

How can I learn more about what travel documents are required by the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative?

Does the passport card contain an electronic chip?

Won't this chip violate Americans' privacy?

How secure is the card?

How do I apply for a passport card?

Can I apply for the passport card and passport book at the same time using the same application?

How much does the passport card cost?

How long will it take to receive a passport card?

How many photos are required when applying for both the passport book and passport card on the same application?

Is there a threat from skimming personal information or tracking American citizens?

What is RFID Technology?

Birth Documentation & Copies of Passport Records

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How do I get a certified copy of my U.S. birth certificate?

What do I do if there is no birth record for me on file anywhere?

I was born abroad. How do I get one or more copies of my birth record?

How do I replace my lost or damaged Consular Report of Birth Abroad (FS-240)?

How do I amend my Consular Report of Birth Abroad (FS-240)?

Why did the Department of State create a new Consular Report of Birth Abroad (FS-240)?

How do I obtain copies of my Certification of Report of Birth (DS-1350)?

I was married overseas. How do I get one or more copies of my marriage certificate?

I lost a loved one overseas. How do I get one or more copies of the death certificate?

How do I obtain copies of a previous passport application?

Service Partners and Professionals

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I am a professional photographer. Where can I obtain information on taking passport photos?

I am a travel agent. Where can I obtain passport information for my customers?

Photo Requirements

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How many photos must I submit with my passport application?

What type of paper should I print my photos on?

Does my photo have to be in color?

How recent must my photo have been taken?

What size must my photo be?

What pose should I be in for my photo?

How large should my head be in the photo?

Can I wear glasses in the photo?

Can I wear sunglasses or tinted glasses in my photo?

Can I wear a hat or head covering for the photo?

Can I wear a uniform in my photo?

Can a parent or guardian appear in the photo of a child?

Is it acceptable for my child's eyes to be closed in his/her photo?

What is the best way to take a photo of a baby or toddler?

Can I use a digital camera to take my passport photo?

Can I remove the red-eye from my photo?

Are photos that are copied from recent driver licenses or other official documents acceptable?

Are snapshots, magazine photos, mobile device photos, or photos from vending machines acceptable?

Do I need to take a new photo if my appearance has changed?

I already have a passport and my appearance has changed significantly, do I need to apply for a new passport?

The U.S. Electronic Passport

Expand All

What is an electronic passport?

What is a biometric? Which one does the electronic passport use?

What are the special features of an electronic passport?

How does an electronic passport facilitate travel?

Why are electronic passports being issued?

What happens if an electronic passport is lost or stolen?

Can a previously issued passport still be used for travel as long as it is still valid?

Can an electronic passport be amended, for example, if I change my name?

Can I request my passport to be issued without a chip?

Will someone be able to read or access the information on the chip without my knowledge (also known as skimming or eavesdropping)?

Can the information on the chip be altered?

What will happen if my electronic passport chip stops working?

WHERE TO

APPLY

Make an Appointment

Please make an appointment to apply at a passport agency.

Online- [Passport Agency Appointment System](#)

Phone- 1-877-487-2778 or
TDD/TTY 1-888-874-7793
Se habla español.

Enroll in STEP

Enrolling in this free service will allow us to better assist you in case of an emergency while you are abroad.

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