

## **New Minor Passport Requirements**

Applying for a US passport directly through the US Passport Agency currently takes 7-10 weeks or 4-6 weeks for rush service. Our firm can expedite passports through our third-party, hand-carry expediting services in less than a week.

If international travel is less than 2-3 weeks (proof is required), there are two choices: to appear at one of the 26 Passport Agencies in the USA, or to use services like ours. If you wish to contact the Passport Agency, call 1-877-487-2778. If we can be of service, please continue.

### **PVA to help. Call First!**

If traveling in less than one week call Passport Visa Advisors at 704-246-6373 for review of your travel situation to be sure we can accommodate your passport requirements.

## **Document Review**

PVA offers optional Concierge and Document Review Services to make sure your application is correct before shipping to PVA. If you choose to bypass these services, pay close attention to all requirements, as missing or incorrectly filled out documents will result in additional costs and delays.

## **New Minor Passport Criteria**

1. All children under the age of 16 must apply for a passport in person with two parents or guardians using [Form DS-11](#). The parent(s) cannot renew a minor's previous passport using Form DS-82. Passports for children under the age of 16 are only valid for 5 years.
2. All applicants 16-17 must apply for a passport in person with one parent or guardian using [Form DS-11](#). The parent(s) cannot renew a minor's previous passport using Form DS-82. Passports for children ages 16-17 are valid for 10 years.

A new passport must be **applied for in person** using [Form DS-11](#) if at least one of the following is true:

- This is your first U.S. passport

- You are under age 16
- Your previous U.S. passport was issued when you were under age 16
- Your previous U.S. passport was lost or stolen, or mutilated or damaged
- Your previous U.S. passport was issued more than 15 years ago

### **Third-Party Hand-Carry Expediting Explained**

**New Passport Expediting** Services consist of three main steps:

- Step 1 – The applicant and parent(s) will appear at a local [Acceptance Agency](#) with their proof of US citizenship, proof of identity, and all supporting paperwork.
- Step 2 – The [Acceptance Agency](#) will review the documents and witness the applicant's (and/or parent(s)) signatures on the application and once the supporting documents are verified, the Agent will seal all documents in an envelope by the agent and returned to the applicant's parents.
- Step 3 – The applicant's parents send the sealed envelope to our firm, and we physically submit it to the US Passport Agency for their review. When the passport is complete, PVA collects it along with all supporting documents and ship them overnight to the applicant to arrive the following day.

### **New Minor Passport Components**

- Proof of Citizenship – minor
- Proof of Identification – parent and minor
- One Recent Passport Photo
- DS-II Application form – two copies\*
- Letter of Authorization – two copies\*
- Proof of International Travel – two copies\*
- Passport Fees
- Acceptance Agency Fees

\* One set of copies will be presented to the Acceptance Agency and the other set sent to PVA. Don't give the AA both sets of copies.

## **Proof of Citizenship**

At the Acceptance Agency appointment, the applicant must submit one of the following original or certified documents:

- Fully valid, undamaged U.S. passport (may be expired)
- U.S. [birth certificate](#) issued by the city, county, or state of birth. The birth certificate must list the applicant's full name, date of birth, and place of birth as well as list the parent(s)' full names. The certificate has the date it was filed with registrar's office (must be within one year of birth), has the registrar's signature and the seal of the issuing authority
- [Consular Report of Birth Abroad or Certification of Birth](#)
- Certificate of Naturalization
- Certificate of Citizenship

Note: These documents must be physical hard-copy evidence of U.S. citizenship. Digital evidence is not allowed.

## **Proof of Identification**

Minors under the age of 16 are not expected to have proof of identity; however, their parent(s) or guardian(s) are. Adults must have valid proof of identification, issued more than six months prior to the US passport application. Acceptable forms of identification include:

- Valid State issued Driver's License
- Valid State issued Identification
- Previously issued, undamaged US passport
- Naturalization Certificate
- Current Government ID (city, county, state, federal)
- Current Military ID
- Current (valid) foreign passport
- Current permanent resident card also known as "green card"

- Trusted Traveler IDs (including valid Global Entry, FAST, SENTRI, and NEXUS cards)

If primary proof of identification has been issued less than six months previous to the passport application plan to provide secondary identification documents [found here](#).

Minors 16-17 can present their own identification; however, their parent or guardian must have proper identification.

### **Passport Photos**

The applicant must provide one recent passport photo with their application.

- Taken within the last six months
- Must be in color and on photo paper – glossy or matte finish is acceptable
- Photo size: must be 2” x 2” (51 x 51 mm)

[Click here](#) for complete passport photo guidelines.

### **Passport Application**

The applicant must create a [DS-11 application](#) to take to the Acceptance Agency appointment. This form must be created online to generate a 2D bar code which allows the application to be processed faster than a hand-written application.

Print **TWO COPIES** of the last two pages of the DS-11 application, **SINGLE-SIDED**, color or black & white, and **DO NOT SIGN** the application until instructed to do so at the Acceptance Agency.

- For minors under the age of 16, the parent(s) or guardian(s) must sign the DS-11 and the minor doesn't sign the document at all.
- For minors aged 16-17, one parent or guardian must sign the DS-11 along with the minor.

Note: for minor applications under 16 years, if both parents are listed on the birth certificate and only one parent (listed on the birth certificate) is not present at the Acceptance Agency, the attending parent must have the

absent parent's signed and notarized [DS-3053](#) granting permission for the present parent to apply for their child's US passport. The missing parent must also provide either a copy of the bio-data page of their passport (with photo and signature) or a front and back copy of the absent parent's driver's license or state issued ID.

### **Letter of Authorization**

All hand-carry applications must include Letter of Authorization (LOA) granting permission to our firm to submit the passport documents on the applicant's behalf. Without this letter, the applicant can't utilize our services.

[Click here](#) and fill out and originally sign **TWO COPIES** of the Letter of Authorization. The LOA can be signed before the Acceptance Agency appointment.

- For minors under the age of 16, the parent(s) or guardian(s) must sign the Letter of Authorization and the minor doesn't sign the document at all.
- For minors aged 16-17, one parent or guardian must sign the Letter of Authorization along with the minor.

Note: the minor is always the applicant, not the parent.

Photocopies, and scans are not acceptable to the US Passport Agency.

Fill out and originally sign **TWO COPIES** of the Letters of Authorization. One will be submitted to the Acceptance Agent and the other will be sent to PVA alongside of the official, sealed envelope.

### **Proof of International Travel**

The US Passport Agency requires proof of travel within 2-4 weeks depending on the traveler's destination. If a traveler's destination does not require a visa, travel must be within two weeks to be eligible for these expedited services. If a visa is required (Australia, Vietnam, India, etc.), travel must take place within four weeks to be eligible for expedited services. Acceptable proof of international travel includes:

- An itinerary from the airline, travel agency, or online booking company showing the record locator number, traveler's name, and date of travel.

- If travel is to Canada or Mexico, a hotel confirmation is best, however a letter of explanation will also be considered.

Note: Letters of explanation are accepted at the discretion of the US Passport Agency.

### **Government Fees**

#### For minors under the age of 16

- \$160 Passport Fees payable to the US Department of State. Forms of payments allowed: cash, debit card, money order, personal check
- \$35 charge for the Acceptance Agency execution services, paid to that facility directly. Forms of payments allowed: cash, debit and credit card, money order, personal check

Both fees are paid at the Acceptance Agency. A passport card costs \$15.

#### For minors ages 16-17

- \$190 Passport Fees payable to the US Department of State. Forms of payments allowed: cash, debit card, money order, personal check
- \$35 charge for the Acceptance Agency execution services, paid to that facility directly. Forms of payments allowed: cash, debit and credit card, money order, personal check

Both fees are paid at the Acceptance Agency. A passport card costs \$30.

**Note:** Please verify acceptable payment methods with the acceptance facility ahead of time.

### **Execution Process**

**Acceptance Agencies** are typically located at Post Offices, or other federal, state, and local government agencies, and usually require an appointment.

Two websites to check for appointments include:

- [United States Postal Service \(USPS\)](#)
- [US State Department's Passport Acceptance Facility Search](#)

The first link is limited to Post Office Acceptance Agencies only whereas the second link lists all Acceptance Agencies, such as Clerk of Courts, Register of Deeds, library, and Voter Registration locations, and Post Offices as well. Any Acceptance Agency in any state will suffice.

Acceptance Agency appointments are usually in high demand and can be made four weeks in advance. Plan accordingly.

### **At the Acceptance Agency**

- The applicant presents all documents to the Acceptance Agency
- The Agent reviews documents, watches either the applicant and/or parent (or parents) sign the DS-11, takes the passport photo, collects passport fees, and completes their end of the process
- When satisfied with the application kit, the Agent will seal all documents into an envelope (that they provide) and hand back to the applicant. The applicant will leave only the \$35 payment behind.

### **After the Acceptance Agency**

- The applicant will send PVA:
  - Sealed Acceptance Agency envelope
  - Unsigned DS-11 application
  - Signed Letter of Authorization
  - Proof of International Travel

Note: the extra copies are referenced above and must be outside the sealed AA envelope, but in the overnight shipping envelope sent to PVA.

### **Shipping**

- If you have selected our pre-paid shipping option, PVA will email you a label to print and send to us.
- If you chose to ship on your own, please overnight your application kit (including your passport) to:

Passport Services

Passport Visa Advisors  
250 N. Trade St, Suite 205  
Matthews, NC 28105  
704-246-6373

- If time is critical (travel in one week or less) contact PVA at 704-246-6373 before shipping to our offices as we might need to arrange for shipment to a different location.

### **Responsibilities:**

Passport Visa Advisors' responsibilities include:

- Reviewing & preparing documents for submission at the Passport Agency.
- Submitting the application into the Passport Agency in person and collecting the passport (and supporting documents) upon completion.
- PVA's Quality Check will verify the information is correct on the passport before shipping it back. If any information is incorrect, we will resubmit to correct the issue at no additional cost.
- PVA will send the new passport and all other original documents to the address provided on the applicant's PVA order form.

The applicant's responsibility includes:

- Prompt shipping of all required documents shortly after your order has been placed with Passport Visa Advisors.
- Review of the passport once it arrives. If an error is found, please bring this to PVA's attention immediately and we will get the issue corrected.