

February 13, 2008

**1. New Regulations went into effect on January 31st requiring all persons entering or re-entering the U.S. to show proof of citizenship.**

Proof of citizenship can be accomplished by presenting a valid passport, an original or certified copy of a U.S. birth certificate, or an original copy of your certificate of citizenship or naturalization. We recommend a passport because it is the only document that proves both your citizenship and your identity.

**2. The Department of State, the agency of the Federal Government that issues passports, announced new rules for the issuance of passport cards.**

- The application form for applying for a new passport has been amended so that applicants can check whether they are applying for a passport book (the traditional passport), a passport card or both. The new Application for Passport form DS 11, which is the same number as it has been previously, must be used for all persons applying after February 1, 2008.
- The passport card is not valid for travel by air. It is valid only for land and sea crossings between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and the Caribbean region. The passport card has the same validity as the passport book: 10 years for adults and 5 years for minors under 16.
- Passport cards can be used for identification for domestic flights. Remember: the passport card can be used as government-issued proof of identity and proof of citizenship. So, if you do not have a driver's license and need identification for passing through security for domestic travel, you can use your passport card for proof of identity instead of presenting your driver's license.
- Passport cards have the same validity as passport books – 10 years for adults 16 and over and 5 years for children under 16. Citizens will be able to apply for a passport card at any acceptance agent on the same basis as a regular passport.
- The passport cards will be able to be scanned at U.S. borders when a person is in the vicinity of an electronic reader that will be operated by U.S. border control officials. The chip in the card contains only one item of information – a unique identifying number that has meaning only inside the secure database of the State Department and Homeland Security Department. There is no personal information such as name, date of birth, social security number, etc. stored electronically on the chip. So, if someone did pick up the signal, they would not be able to use the data to learn anything about the holder.

- The government may permit alternative documentation for land crossings such as driver's licenses issued by states that have established methods for determining citizenship acceptable to the Federal government. Several states have already submitted proposals to the Federal government. This matter will be addressed in subsequent regulations issued by the Federal government.
- The execution fee for applying for a passport card is \$25. The execution fee for applying for a passport book is also \$25. If you apply for both at the same time, there is only one fee.

**3. Effective February 1, 2008, there are new forms that must be used for passport applications.**

**4. The new fees for Passports effective February 1, 2008:**

| <b>Fee Type</b>            | <b>New Passport Fee</b> | <b>New Post Office Fee</b> | <b>New Total</b> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Passport Book 16 and over  | \$75                    | \$25                       | \$100            |
| Passport Book 15 and under | \$60                    | \$25                       | \$85             |
| Passport Book renewal      | \$75                    | N/A                        | \$75             |
| Passport Card 16 and over  | \$20                    | \$25                       | \$45             |
| Passport Card 15 and under | \$10                    | \$25                       | \$35             |
| Expedited Service Fee*     | \$60                    | N/A                        | \$60             |

\*Not available for cards

The fees for obtaining a passport card for persons without a passport are as follows:

- Adults: Total \$45 -- \$20 application fee, plus \$25 execution fee
- Children under 16: Total \$35 -- \$10 application fee, + \$25 execution fee

Persons who have a valid passport book (Remember: a "passport book" means a person who has a "passport") and who are applying for a passport card (in addition to holding a valid passport) are not required to pay the execution fee. Thus, persons with a valid passport who also want a passport card can apply for \$20.

**5. Change in the age for parental consent and issuance of passports to minor children:**

Effective February 1, 2008, both parents must appear or sign consent forms for a child under 16 to apply for a passport. Formerly, the requirement for both parents to consent was for children under 14. It is now required for children under 16.

Effective February 1, 2008, a parent may request that their minor children's (under 18) names be entered in the U.S. Passport name-check system. Once entered into the system, the program known as the Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program (CPIAP) will notify the parent if a passport application is submitted in behalf of his/her minor child(ren), and will deny the issuance of a passport if there is an appropriate court order on file with the CPIAP.

Copyright 2008 A Briggs Passport & Visa Expeditors