

HOW TO GET A U.S. PASSPORT FOR YOUR CHILD

1. WHAT IS NEEDED TO OBTAIN A U.S. PASSPORT?

- Start by going to: http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_830.html#step1first
- Complete the Application Form DS-11.
- One passport photograph.
- A certified copy of the foreign country adoption decree, along with a certified English translation if not in English, and/or a U.S. state-issued adoption decree.
- Evidence that your child entered the U.S. as a lawful permanent resident. This can be shown through producing either the child's lawful permanent resident alien card or the child's foreign country passport with the I-551 stamp indicating the immigration visa classification, for example, "IR3".
- Your child's Certificate of Citizenship (COC) if your child has one.
- Proof of the requesting parent's identification, for example, a driver's license.
- Evidence of U.S. citizenship of at least one of the parents, for example: a birth certificate showing birth in the U.S., a U.S. Passport, a Certificate of Naturalization, if a naturalized USC or a COC.
- You should also bring a certified copy of your child's birth certificate, along with the certified translation if it is not in English, to confirm your child's age.
- You may be required to submit original or certified copies of various documents that will not be returned until after the Passport is processed.
- Your child must appear in person when you are applying for the passport. (When applying for a passport for a minor under the age of 14 you must comply with the parent consent provisions required under Public Law 106-113.)

2. IS A CERTIFICATE OF CITIZENSHIP (COC) REQUIRED BEFORE YOU CAN OBTAIN A USP FOR YOUR CHILD?

You should not have to obtain a COC before you can obtain a USP and the current information sheet from the Department of State website regarding the CCA is in accord. However some offices are erroneously requiring a COC before they accept the USP application. If unsuccessful, you should try another designated office that accepts Passport applications. Some are more knowledgeable than others.

**3. DOES YOUR CHILD NEED A USP TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES
ONCE HE OR SHE BECOMES A USC?**

Yes. Once your child becomes a USC he or she must enter and leave the U.S. on a USP.

Please note that these are general comments and are not intended to be comprehensive. They are not legal advice nor should they be relied upon as legal advice. They are based on various publications and information that may be reviewed on the USCIS, Department of State and related websites, applicable law and my experience.

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