

U.S. PASSPORTS & INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

U.S. Department of State • Bureau of Consular Affairs



Passports for children under age 16 are only valid for 5 years.

Children under 16 (including infants) must apply in person with their parents or legal guardians. Both parents/guardians **must** appear in person with the child and provide consent, authorizing passport issuance to the child.

If one parent/guardian is unable to appear in person: The child's passport application must be accompanied by a signed, notarized *Form DS-3053: Statement of Consent* from the non-applying parent/guardian.

If the child only has one parent/guardian: Evidence of sole authority to apply for the child must be submitted, such as a birth certificate listing only the applying parent, a court order granting sole legal custody to the applying parent/guardian, or the death certificate of the non-applying parent/guardian.

If the non-applying parent/guardian cannot be located: The applying parent/guardian must submit *Form DS-5525: Statement of Exigent/Special Family Circumstances*. The applying parent/guardian must explain in detail why consent cannot be obtained from the non-applying parent/guardian and describe recent efforts made to contact the non-applying parent/guardian.

If both parents/guardians are unavailable: A third party may apply for the child's passport with a signed, notarized written statement or affidavit from both parents or guardians authorizing a third party to apply for the child. Each statement must be accompanied by a photocopy of the parents' or guardians' identification. When the statement of affidavit is from only one parent/guardian, the third party must present evidence of sole custody of the authorizing parent/guardian.

For more information about how to apply for your child's U.S. passport, please visit [Travel.State.Gov/Passport](https://travel.state.gov/Passport).