

ACS BRIEF



American Citizen Services Newsletter

January 2015

From the Consul General

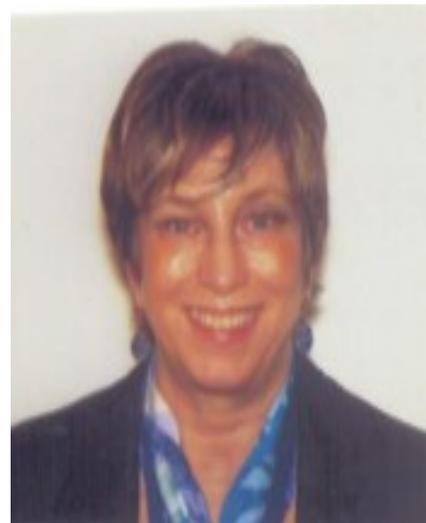
Congratulations to all parents of newborn babies! This is a truly special time to enjoy the new member of your family and get to know him or her. And one of the most special events in your near future is applying for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad.

Personally, I would rather have a tooth pulled, than go to an Embassy for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad. Nowadays, this is a very complex ordeal, with far too much paperwork, and frankly, you have all my sympathy.

My father was born in Berlin. He was my grandfather's first son. My grandfather was so happy, so proud, he could not wait to get his son a passport! But the Embassy was closed the next morning, because it was a national holiday. So my grandfather went running into the Embassy the following day, July 5, and walked out with a Consular Report of Birth Abroad! Easy, no? My grandmother and my father were still at the hospital, and my grandfather just walked in with no notice and got the document.

Fast forward to the 1980's, and it was already a lot harder. With no notice, I took my one-month-old son to the Beirut Embassy for a passport, and filled out the application for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad. Fortunately, I have an excellent memory, and could actually remember all of the days I entered and exited the United States, so filling out the form was not a problem. But – there was this long, long list of documents that had to be provided. We did not even have some of this stuff in Lebanon! It took us four months to get the document in hand.

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Consul General Elizabeth Gourlay

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ACS wishes everyone a Happy New Year!

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Today? Well, folks, the law is the law, and we can only do what we are allowed to do. We at the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka are working hard to make it clear to you what you should do to make your experience as smooth and easy as possible, but we cannot do it without your help. We have listed the requirements on our website, we reach out to new parents by telephone and by e-mail, we are doing everything we can to make it clear to you what you need to bring in with you on the day of the appointment. And we welcome your ideas on how to make our instructions easy to follow.

So if you are getting ready to register your new baby, or if you have a baby on the way, please take the time to look carefully at our website and make sure you have everything in hand on the day of your visit.

Trusted Travelers

In order to better accommodate frequent travelers to the U.S., the Department of Homeland Security has instituted trusted traveler programs to expedite security screening and immigration/passport control formalities. One of the most extensive programs is TSA Pre \checkmark [®], currently available at more than 120 airports nationwide. After registering, eligible passengers traveling on Air Canada, Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Hawaiian Airlines, JetBlue Airways, Southwest Airlines, Sun Country Airlines, United Airlines, US Airways and Virgin America can use TSA Pre \checkmark [®] lanes available at participating airports. These lanes allow you to move through security screening without having to remove your shoes or unload your laptop from its bags.

Registering for TSA Pre \checkmark [®] requires making an appointment at one of 280 processing centers in the U.S., paying an \$85 processing fee, presenting valid government identification, and submitting fingerprints. More information is available here: <http://www.tsa.gov/tsa-precheck>

Participation in other Trusted Traveler Programs such as NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST, and Global Entry also allow the use of TSA Pre \checkmark [®]. To learn more about enrolling in these programs, visit <http://www.cbp.gov/travel/trusted-traveler-programs>.

The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. If you and your family are not already enrolled, please visit <https://step.state.gov/step/> to learn more.



Learn more at step.state.gov

Which documents should I bring to my CRBA interview?

Each application for consular reports of birth abroad (CRBA) is different, however each applicant needs to satisfy the consular officer that he/she is entitled to the document (which allows them to receive a U.S. passport and demonstrates U.S. citizenship). The entitlement to the benefit is established through documentary evidence and the interview. Providing all the recommended documentation and being prepared for your interview will help prevent your application from being delayed. Embassy Dhaka recommends you bring the following to your interview:

- Naturalization Certificate (Original)
- U.S. Citizen parent's U.S. passport/Bangladeshi passport (original or notarized copy of each page)
- Non-citizen parent's Bangladeshi passport
- Child's registered birth certificate
- Original Nikah Nama (Bangla and/or English translation)

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- Original marriage certificate (Bangla and/or English translation)
- Original Talak Nama (Bangla and/or English translation)
- Original divorce certificate (Bangla and/or English translation)
- Consular report of birth abroad application (DS-2029)
- Notarized statement of consent form (DS-3053) or statement of exigent/special family circumstances (DS-5525)
- Evidence of physical presence in the United States. Note: In cases where both parents are not U.S. citizens, the U.S. citizen parent generally needs to demonstrate at least five full years of physical presence in the U.S. (Helpful documentation includes: certified transcripts from educational institutions, pay stubs, air tickets, hospital bills, utility bills etc.)
- Evidence of the identity of child (such as photos from family events)
- Prenatal/medical documents

For more information visit http://dhaka.usembassy.gov/acs_cons_rpt_birth_uscitizen.html

Studying Abroad for U.S. Citizens

According to the State Department blog, approximately 300,000 U.S. citizens embarked on the great adventure of study abroad in 2013, including to Bangladesh. To help ensure a rewarding study experience in Bangladesh, please visit studentsabroad.state.gov. The website outlines important information for U.S. citizens interested in studying abroad including: required travel documents, health, handling emergencies overseas, and more.

For a quick list of what students should do before embarking also visit <http://blogs.state.gov/stories/2014/12/20/us-study-abroad-five-actions-you-go>

Do you want to bring your pets with you to Bangladesh?

If you don't want to leave your pets home alone while travelling, you can choose to take them with you. Two options exist for traveling to and from Bangladesh with your pets. You can either travel with your pets as cargo or as excess baggage. However, additional documentation may be required, such as veterinary records, and No Objection Certificates. The USDA has a "pet passport" which can help travelers navigate the process of traveling with pets. http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport/sa_animals/sa_pet_travel

Pets as Cargo

To ship a pet as cargo, you must utilize a qualified and licensed shipping company and ensure that your airline accepts the service. As people traveling to Bangladesh from the U.S. currently need to transit a third country, transit and layover rules for your pet in the third country also need to be considered. Be sure to contact a shipping company and begin arrangements well in advance your travel.

Pets as Excess Baggage

If you choose to travel with your pet as excess baggage, you will need to communicate directly with the travel agency or airline to make the arrangements. Each airline may have different policies and procedures and these are subject to change at any moment.

Upcoming ACS Outreach Activities Outside Dhaka

February 2015—ACS Services in Sylhet

March 2015—ACS Services in Chittagong

April 2015—ACS Services in Khulna

Happenings in ACS

Inquiries NOT Related to American Citizen Services

To learn more about the status of your nonimmigrant or immigrant visa case, we encourage you to contact the GSS call center, who is now receiving all visa inquiries for the Embassy:

Callers in Bangladesh: Call +88 09610202040 (Sunday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

Callers in the United States: Call +1 703-988-3466 (Operational 24 hours a day starting Mondays at 5:00 a.m. and ending Fridays at 12:00 a.m.) Email: support-bangladesh@ustraveldocs.com

Skype: To use Skype to speak to a customer service representative during regular hours of operation, add a new contact to your Skype account with the Skype name **ustraveldocs-bangladesh**.

New telephone number for the U.S. Embassy Dhaka

Phone: (880) (2) 5566-2000 (For after office-hours emergency. Press "0", and ask to speak with the duty officer. You may be asked for your reason for calling; this is to better help the operator in directing your call).

American citizenship documents off-site passback locations

Dhaka Office- Visa Collection Center: Saimon Center, Road # 22, House # 4A, Gulshan 1, Dhaka- 1212

Chittagong Office- Visa Collection Center: Ayub Trade Center, 5th Floor, 1269/B Shekh Mujib Road, Agrabad, Chittagong .

Sylhet Office- Visa Collection Center: 1/A Ananda Tower, Jail Road, Sylhet-3100



Adding pages to U.S. Passports

Effective December 31, 2015, the Department of State will eliminate the consular service of supplemental 24-page Visa Page Inserts (VPIs) for passports. Requests for VPIs using Form DS-4085 will be accepted until December 31, 2015 for valid passports issued **on or before** September 30, 2014. To mitigate the impact of this change, as of October 1, 2014, applicants for U.S. passports at the U.S. Embassy Dhaka are routinely issued 52-page passports. There is no additional cost for a 52-page passport.

Full versions of recent warden messages are available on our website:
<http://dhaka.usembassy.gov/msg.html>

