



American Citizen Services Unit
U.S. Embassy Santo Domingo
Warden Message



TO: Consular Wardens

FROM: ACS Unit

DATE: January 30, 2008

SUBJECT: New Passport Application Forms and Parental Consent Requirements

Following is a Warden's Message about new passport application forms and rules for passport issuance to minors under the age of 16. These changes take effect on February 1, 2008. Please circulate this information to your constituents.

Effective February 1, 2008, new forms must be used for all passport applications. The old forms will NOT be accepted after this date. Copies of the new forms will be available at the consular section in Santo Domingo and on the State Department website www.travel.state.gov. The updated forms include:

DS 11	Application for a passport
DS 82	Application for US passport by mail (renewal)
DS 4085	Application for additional pages
DS 5504	Name change, Data correction or Limited passport Book replacement
DS 3053	Statement of Consent to issuance of a passport to minors under age 16

Also effective February 1, 2008, both parents must sign to authorize passport issuance for minors under the age of 16. Previously, only children under age 14 required parental authorization. This change is designed to improve travel security of children and prevent child abduction. Age 16 is consistent with the age limits of the Hague International Convention on Child Abduction, which is now in force between the US and the Dominican Republic. A parent who is unable to come in person can use form DS-3053 Statement of Consent to authorize passport issuance. This must be signed and notarized within 3 months of the passport application. A consular officer will notarize a DS-3053 without charge. If the child is in the physical custody of a relative who does not have legal guardianship of the child, both parents must execute notarized statements IN ENGLISH that include the name of the individual and specifically authorizes this person to execute a passport application. A copy of the

parent's photo ID WITH SIGNATURE is required to validate notarized consent statement.

For the latest security information, Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Internet web site at <http://travel.state.gov> where the current Worldwide Caution Public Announcement, Travel Warnings, and Travel Alerts can be found. Up to date security information can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the United States, or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00am to 8:00pm EST, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

American citizens traveling or residing overseas are encouraged to register with the appropriate U.S. Embassy or Consulate on the State Department's travel registration website at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>.

For any emergencies involving American citizens, please contact the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit of the U.S. Embassy. The Consular Section Embassy is located at the corner of Cesar Nicolas Penson Street and Máximo Gómez Avenue, Santo Domingo, D.R.; telephone 809-731-4294; after hours emergency telephone 809-221-2171; ACS unit fax 809-689-6142; e-mail acssantodom@state.gov; web page www.usemb.gov.do.