

January 08, 2014

How do I cancel my dead mom's visa?

Question: *"My mother recently passed away, and there is a valid B1/B2 visitor's visa in her passport. We have contacted PICA to have the passport canceled, but what do I need to do about her U.S. visa?"*

Please accept our condolences on the death of your mother.

Taking care of things like canceling your mother's passport and visa is a huge help in preventing visa and passport fraud, and will keep someone from stealing her identity to travel illegally. In addition to contacting PICA to cancel your mother's passport, send an email to the U.S. Embassy's Fraud Prevention Unit at KingstonFPU@state.gov to proceed with canceling the U.S. visa. Please include your mother's full name, date of birth, and passport number, as well as the reason you are writing to have the visa canceled (in this case, because the visa holder is now deceased).

The officers in the Fraud Prevention Unit will make a record of the event in our systems, to ensure that no one can use your mother's visa to illegally travel to the U.S. If you happen to be coming to the U.S. Embassy for an appointment of your own, please also bring in your mother's passport so that an officer can physically stamp the canceled visa. This will ensure that no one can alter the canceled visa to create a fraudulent one if your mother's passport was ever lost or stolen.

Additionally, if your passport is ever lost or stolen with a valid U.S. visa, please follow these same instructions to have the visa canceled. We have seen cases where someone's stolen visa was used by a different person to travel illegally to the U.S., causing issues for the person whose identity was stolen when they tried to get another visa and use it for legitimate travel. Reporting your lost or stolen visa immediately will help prevent fraud and save you from identity theft.

For additional information about scheduling an appointment or other visa information, please visit our website at: <http://kingston.usembassy.gov/visas.html>.