

## Special Entry/Exit Instructions for U.S. Citizens Born in Colombia

Be aware that any person born in Colombia or of Colombian parentage may be considered a Colombian citizen, even if never documented as such. According to Colombian law, all Colombian citizens—regardless of dual citizenship—MUST present a Colombian passport to enter and exit Colombia. Colombian citizens traveling with non-Colombian passports frequently have been prevented from departing the country until they obtain a Colombian passport. Colombian citizens who naturalized as U.S. citizens before 1990 are deemed to have lost their Colombian citizenship as of the date of naturalization and do not need to show a Colombian passport, but Colombian Immigration authorities suggest that these passengers travel with proof of their date of naturalization. Be aware as well that all U.S. citizens, regardless of dual citizenship, must present a valid U.S. passport upon returning to the United States. Persons who are both U.S. and Colombian citizens MUST travel between these countries with both passports, presenting the Colombian passport upon departing Colombia and the U.S. passport upon arrival in the U.S.

### Additional Exit Requirements for Minors

To prevent international child abduction, Colombia has implemented special exit procedures for Colombian children under 18 who depart the country alone, without both parents, or a without a legal guardian. These procedures also apply to U.S. citizen children if they are dual nationals or if they are legal residents of Colombia. The procedures can be complex and time-consuming, especially if the absent parent is outside Colombia, so advance planning is essential.

When exiting the country, a certified copy of the child's birth certificate, along with a written, signed, and notarized authorization from the absent parent(s) or legal guardian must be presented. The authorization must be notarized by a Colombian authority and explicitly grant permission for the child to travel alone, with one parent, or with a named third party. If a parent is deceased, a notarized copy of a death certificate is required. If one parent has sole custody of the child, that parent may present a custody decree instead of the other parent's written authorization. In cases where a Colombian citizen or dual national child has been adopted in a U.S. Court, the adoption decree must be legalized (Exequatur) by the Colombian Supreme Court.

If the documents originated in the United States, they must first be translated into Spanish and then signed in front of a Colombian consul at a [Colombian consulate](#). Upon arrival in Colombia, the documents must be presented to the [Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) for certification (apostille) of the consul's signature.

Alternatively, the documents may be translated into Spanish, then notarized by a notary public in the United States, and the notary's signature certified by the [competent authority in the U.S. state](#) where the notary is licensed. The notarized document, translation, and certification (apostille) should be presented to immigration officers at the airport when the child travels.

If the documents originated in Colombia and are written in Spanish, only notarization by a Colombian notary is required. For documents originating in countries other than the United States or Colombia, please inquire with the Colombian Embassy serving that country.

In cases where the absent parent refuses or is unable to provide consent, the other parent can request assistance from Colombia's child protective service, [Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar \(ICBF\)](#). In appropriate cases, ICBF will investigate and may issue a document that will allow the child to travel without both parents' consent. This process may take a significant amount of time and is not within the control of the U.S. government.