



ACS *newsletter*

June 2013

U.S. Embassy, Manila

1201 Roxas Blvd.,

Ermita, Manila

Philippines 1000

Tel: (632) 301-2000

Website: manila.usembassy.gov

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/manila.usembassy>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/usembassymanila>

Blog: <http://blogs.usembassy.gov/philippines/>



NOTE FROM THE ACS CHIEF

Magandang araw sa inyong lahat. My name is Bob Jachim, and I am the chief of the American Citizens Services (ACS) team at the Embassy. Welcome to the latest edition of our ACS newsletter.

I arrived in Manila last summer after serving at the U.S. Embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark as the consular section chief. I have already had the chance to meet many U.S. citizens around the country, and I look forward to meeting more people on our regular consular outreach visits.

We are planning to send out our newsletter every quarter or so with useful and interesting information for U.S. citizens living or visiting the Philippines. We will also include information from other Embassy offices that help U.S. citizens. I welcome any feedback about this newsletter or about services at the Embassy.

Please feel free to contact us at ACSInfoManila@state.gov.



Be a Smart Traveler

By connecting with us using the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP), the Department of State will be able to assist you better in the case of an emergency, such as if you lose your passport or it is stolen while you are abroad.

The Department of State also assists U.S. citizens in emergency situations. For example, after the earthquake in Haiti, we evacuated over 16,700 U.S. citizens. During the civil unrest in Lebanon in 2006 we assisted nearly

15,000 U.S. citizens, and in 2004 we helped thousands more during the Asian tsunami.

The travel and contact information you enter into STEP will make it easier for consular officers in U.S. embassies and consulates around the world to contact you and your loved ones during an emergency — including situations where your family or friends in the U.S. are having problems trying to contact you with important news. We believe that a well-

informed traveler is a safer traveler. Our consular officers around the world prepare country-specific information sheets, travel alerts, travel warnings, fact sheets and messages to provide you with timely and accurate travel information about every country where you may travel. We include reports on possible risks and security threats so that you can make informed decisions about your travel plans and activities. These reports are available at www.travel.state.gov.

<http://www.travel.state.gov/STEP>



Your Privacy Is Paramount.

All the personal information you provide to us is protected under the Privacy Act of 1974. This law prohibits us from sharing the information with anyone *without your written authorization*. Certain exceptions exist, such as when we need to share information on a limited basis in order to protect your safety and welfare in extreme circumstances.

Rocking Retirement



Generations ago, retirement was thought of as a time to take it easy — a time of rocking on porch chairs and reminiscing about the good old days. But that’s not the case

with the current generation of retirees. In fact, many older people today continue to rock on. Just look at some of the superstars touring and performing concerts this year who are old enough to collect Social Security retirement payments. They’re still rocking, but not in chairs.

Bob Dylan is on tour, as he usually is during summer months. Dylan is 71 years old. Paul McCartney is busy with his current “Out

There” tour. The former Beatle is now age 70. Willie Nelson is “On the Road Again.” The music icon is 79 years old and seems to be on nonstop tour.

It’s hard to believe, looking at all of these mature stars, that retirement used to be associated with bridge and shuffleboard. It’s not just musicians. In fact, many people decide to put off applying for retirement benefits. And even after they do begin collecting benefits, many “retirees” prefer to keep working — or at least moving and shaking.

Most people know that you can begin collecting early Social Security benefits at age 62, with a reduction in the monthly amount. The full retirement age is gradually going up from 66 for people born between 1943 and 1954, to 67 for people born in 1960 and later. You can

delay retirement even further and receive a higher payment when you retire, up until you reach age 70. And another thing that has changed since the past generation: you can continue to work and still receive retirement benefits.

Learn more about Social Security retirement benefits by reading our publication on the subject at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

When you’re ready to retire, the best place to apply is from the comfort of your home computer, with some of your favorite music blaring in the background. Begin the process with our *Retirement Planner* at www.socialsecurity.gov/retirement. Crank up the tunes, and start planning before you head out to your next concert.

New CRBA Form (DS-2029) Released by Department of State

In March, the Department of State began using a new version of Form DS-2029 also known as the application for Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA).



While it is longer (now 7 pages including the Privacy Act Statement) than the form it replaces, it should be clearer to the applicants and provide more space for all information needed to adjudicate a child’s claim to U.S. citizenship.

Additionally, the acknowledgment of paternity and financial support agreement which is required for out-of-wedlock births has also been incorporated in this new form. This means that fathers who are applying for the CRBA for their child born out-of-wedlock, and will be present during the interview at Embassy, do not need to complete the separate Affidavit of Parentage, Physical Presence and Support (Form DS-5507) since this is already included in the new CRBA form.

The new DS-2029 is “fillable” electronically which allows information to be entered online. The completed form can then be printed for the interview. The form is now available for

download on www.travel.state.gov as well as on the Embassy website (<http://manila.usembassy.gov>).

The revised DS-2029 is longer but clearer and has more space for answers!

manila.usembassy.gov

Passports for Minors

Summer is a busy time to travel for everyone and traveling with children can be stressful. If you need to apply for a passport or renew a passport for your minor child, don't wait until the last minute.

Before you start, please note that minors under age 16 **must** apply in person. Make an appointment and submit the passport application using the following steps:

1. Complete Form DS-11: *Application For A U.S. Passport*
2. Submit Form DS-11: *Application For A U.S. Passport In Person*
3. Submit Child's Evidence of U.S. Citizenship
4. Submit Evidence of Relationship Between Child and Parent(s)/Guardian(s)
5. Present Identification of Parent(s)/Guardian(s)
6. Submit a Photocopy of Each Parent/Guardian ID Document To Be Presented
7. Provide Parental Consent
8. Pay the Applicable Fee
9. Submit Two Passport Photos

Both parents must consent to passport issuance for a minor under age 16. Follow the instruction that best applies to your circumstance:

Two Parents MUST appear in person with the minor and sign Form DS-11 in front of a Consular Officer/Acceptance Agent.

If only one parent is able to appear, that parent MUST submit the non-appearing parent's notarized Statement of Consent (Form DS-3053) along with a copy of the identification used by the notary.

This form must be notarized by a U.S. commissioned notary or a Consular Officer of the U.S. Embassy or Consulate.



One Parent (with sole legal custody) **MUST submit primary evidence of sole authority to apply for the child** with **one** of the following:

- *Minor's certified U.S. or foreign **birth certificate** listing **only** the applying parent
- ***Consular Report of Birth Abroad** (Form FS-240) or **Certification of Birth Abroad** (Form DS-1350) listing **only** the applying parent
- ***Court order granting sole custody to the applying parent** (unless child's travel is restricted by that order)
- ***Adoption decree** (if applying parent is *sole* adopting parent)
- ***Court order specifically permitting applying parent's or guardian's travel with the child**
- ***Judicial declaration** of incompetence of non-applying parent
- ***Death certificate** of non-applying parent. If the death occurred in the Philippines, please provide the NSO issued death certificate.

A Third Party (in *Loco Parentis* applying on behalf of a minor under the age of 16) **MUST submit a notarized written statement or affidavit** from both parents or guardian authorizing a third-party to apply for a passport. The document must be duly notarized by a U.S. commissioned notary or a Consular Officer of the U.S. Embassy.

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.



IMPORTANT NOTE: The written consent from the non-applying parent that accompanies an application for a new passport must be less than 3 months old. New written consent from the non-applying parent must be obtained and submitted with any future passport application for the minor under age 16.

For more information or to make an appointment, visit our website at: <http://manila.usembassy.gov/service/passports.html>



In case of an Emergency outside business hours, U.S. citizens may reach the Embassy Duty officer through the Embassy operator at (63)(2) 301-2000.

Typhoon Season—Are you READY?

Typhoons and tropical storms can pose dangerous conditions due to high wind, potential flooding, and are common this time of year in the Philippines. There are several good resources for tracking a developing storm's intensity and direction. Two particularly good ones are www.typhoon2000.ph and www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph. Planning ahead is one of the best ways to stay safe.



Shelter in Place: Basic Emergency Supply Kit

Water, food, and clean air are important things to have if you are sheltering in place. Each family or individual's kit should be customized to meet specific needs, such as medications and infant formula.

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for one week, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a one week supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered radio
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First Aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Infant formula and diapers, if you have an infant
- Personal hygiene items including feminine

- supplies, Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Dust mask or cotton t-shirt, to help filter the air
 - Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
 - Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
 - Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
 - Food for pets

It is possible that the power will be out and you will not have air-conditioning. Rethink your clothing and bedding supplies to account for growing children and other family changes.

Below are some other items for your family to consider adding to its supply kit. Some of these items, especially those marked with a * can be dangerous, so please have an adult collect these supplies.

- Paper towels, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils
- Cash, change—ATM machines and banks may not be functional
- Fire Extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container*
- Paper, pencil
- Disinfectant*
- Household chlorine bleach*
- Medicine dropper
- Important Family Documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container

Information courtesy of www.ready.gov



AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

Consul General: Michael R. Schimmel
ACS Chief: Robert J. Jachim Jr.
Office: (63) (2) 301-2246 or 2567
Fax: (63) (2) 301-2017
Email: ACSInfoManila@state.gov
Website: <http://manila.usembassy.gov>

Emergencies

For emergencies after office hours, please call (63) (2) 301-2000 and ask for the Duty Officer.



Plan to submit a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) as early as possible in 2013 so your local election officials have time to send you an absentee ballot, and you have time to vote and return it.



UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

<u>HOLIDAY</u>	<u>LEGAL DATE</u>	<u>CLOSING DATE</u>
Philippine Independence Day (PHIL)	Wednesday, June 12	Wednesday, June 12
U.S. Independence Day (U.S.)	Thursday, July 4	Thursday, July 4
Eid-ul-Fitr (subject to proclamation-PHIL)	TBD	TBD
Ninoy Aquino Day (PHIL)	Wednesday, August 21	Wednesday, August 21
U.S. Labor Day (U.S.)	Monday, September 2	Monday, September 2