

PASSPORT FAQS

As we approach peak travel season, it is important to stay informed about passport renewals to ensure your international travel is seamless.



Our office has prepared this guide to assist you with any passport inquiries.



U.S. CONGRESSMAN

ROB MENENDEZ

Proudly serving New Jersey's 8th District

Congress of United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1317

Dear Residents of the Eighth Congressional District,

International travel should be an exciting experience. Whether you need a passport for visiting family, an upcoming work trip, or leisure vacation, we want you to arrive at your destination without any last-minute passport complications or emergencies.

That being said, we have prepared this FAQ guide to help you with your travels. Additionally, our office is here to be a resource for any issues you may have obtaining, renewing, or replacing a passport.

If you have any questions or if we could be of any assistance with the Department of State, which issues passports to United States citizens traveling abroad, please contact our Jersey City office at (201) 309-0301. You can also contact us through our website.

We are here to serve you and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Menendez

Member of Congress

New Jersey's Eighth Congressional District

Do you have any of these passport issues? Our office can help!

Our office can help if you have any problems during the passport application or renewal process.

If your passport renewal (routine or expedited), replacement, or new passport has been delayed, we can contact the Department of State and advocate on your behalf.

Since we are entering peak travel season, it is very important that you check the expiration date on your passport as far in advance of your international travel, as possible.

We can help you:

- Navigate bureaucratic logjams with passport renewals
- Expedite passport requests
- Replace passports that may have been damaged, lost, or stolen
- Check the status of a pending request
- Answer any general questions

FAQs

How do I apply for a passport?

Complete this [form](#) if you are applying for a passport for the first time or if you are applying for [your child who is under the age of 16](#).

To be eligible to apply for a passport, at least one of the following must be true:

- You are applying for your first U.S. passport
- You/the applicant are/is 16 or older
- Your previous U.S. passport was either:
 - issued when the individual was under the age of 16;
 - issued more than 15 years ago; or
 - lost, stolen or damaged.

Notice to Applicants under the age of 16: You must appear in person to apply for a U.S. passport with your parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

Notice to Applicants Ages 16 and 17: At least one of your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must know that you are applying for a U.S. passport. See the "How to show parental awareness" on the next page.

How to show parental awareness:

- A legal parent or legal guardian can appear with you in person when you apply for your passport. The agent or employee accepting the application will ask your legal parent or legal guardian to sign Form DS-11. Please bring a photocopy of that parent or guardian's ID.
- Submit a signed note from your legal parent or legal guardian with a photocopy of their ID.
- Submit proof that your legal parent or legal guardian is paying your application fees (e.g., parent or guardian's name is written on the check or money order).
- You may be asked to submit a notarized statement from your legal parent or legal guardian (e.g., on Form DS-3053), which states he or she supports you receiving a passport. The statement must be accompanied by a photocopy of that parent or guardian's ID.

How do I apply for a passport renewal?

Complete this [form](#) to [renew your passport](#). Keep in mind that children under the age of 16 cannot renew their passports and must apply using [Form DS-11](#).

Who is eligible for a passport renewal?

You are eligible to apply for a passport renewal if you can answer "Yes" to ALL statements below about your passport:

- You can submit your most recent U.S. passport book, and/or card with your application (e.g., you currently have your passport in your possession).
- You were at least 16 years old when your most recent U.S. passport book and/or card was issued.
- You were issued your most recent U.S. passport book and/or card less than 15 years ago.
- The U.S. passport book and/or card that you are renewing has not been mutilated, damaged, or reported lost or stolen
- Your U.S. passport was not limited to less than the normal ten-year validity period due to passport damage/mutilation, or multiple passport thefts/losses.
- Your name has not changed since your most recent U.S. passport book and/or card was issued. If your name has changed by marriage or court order, you can submit proper certified documentation to reflect your name change such as a certified copy of a marriage certificate or court order.

Since we are entering peak travel season, it is very important that you check the expiration date on your passport.

What countries have special requirements for passport expiration dates?

Did you know that many countries require that a U.S. Passport have six months of validity remaining for issuance of a visa or for permission to enter the country? Some airlines will not allow passengers with less than six months of passport validity to board flights to these destinations.

Countries requiring six months of validity include: Bahrain, Burma, Cambodia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Laos, Mainland China, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam.

How do you check the status of your passport application?

You can check the status of your passport application online by clicking the following link: [passport status](#).

If you applied online, you can log into your [MyTravelGov](#) account to check the status.

An explanation of what each status means is available [here](#).

Updated information for individuals with urgent travel needs can be accessed [here](#).

How long does passport processing take? Does the timeframe start with the date the application is submitted?

Current processing time for passports as of February XX 2024:

Routine	6 to 8 weeks
Expedited	2 to 3 weeks
Expedited at Agency	Must have international travel within 14 calendar days

Processing times begin the day the office receives your application at a passport agency or center, not the day you mail your application or apply. Mailing times may add several weeks on for the time it takes to receive your passport.

When can you get an in-person appointment at a passport agency?

Appointments are for constituents who have urgent international travel within 5 calendar days. Our office may reach out to a regional passport agency for assistance with scheduling an in-person appointment, if available.

Our office is not able to guarantee an emergency passport appointment.

What should you do if you lose your passport abroad?

You will have to replace the passport before returning to the United States. Contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate for assistance. Ask to speak to the Consular Section to report your passport lost or stolen.

A list of U.S. Embassies and Consulates is available [here](#).