

Consent Letter to a Allow Minor Child to Cross the U.S. Canadian Border

The signer(s) of this letter is/are the Legal Parent(s) or Guardian(s) of the Minor Child listed below. I / We hereby provide our consent for the Minor Child to travel on the trip described below with the Responsible Adult(s) listed in this letter.

Minor Child's Information - Full Name _____

Date and Place of Birth _____

Home Address _____

Passport / Documentation Information _____

Trip Description: _____

_____ departing on or about _____ returning on or about _____

Responsible Adult #1 Full Name _____

Passport Number / Issuing Country _____

Relationship to Child _____ Place and Date of Birth _____

Home or Work Address, and Home, Work, and Cellular Telephone Numbers: _____

Responsible Adult #2 Full Name _____

Passport Number / Issuing Country _____

Relationship to Child _____ Place and Date of Birth _____

Home or Work Address, and Home, Work, and Cellular Telephone Numbers: _____

Parent or Guardian #1 Full Name _____

Full Address _____

Home, Work, and Cellular Telephone Numbers _____

_____ Email Address _____

Parent / Guardian #1 Signature _____ Date _____

Parent or Guardian #2 Full Name _____

Full Address _____

Home, Work, and Cellular Telephone Numbers _____

_____ Email Address _____

Parent / Guardian #2 Signature _____ Date _____

Notary: I certify that the signatory(s) of this Consent Letter personally appeared before me and executed this document giving permission for the Minor Child named above to travel out of the country with the Responsible Adult(s) named in this document.

Why Do You Need This Consent Letter?

In theory you don't. HOWEVER, both the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Canadian Border Services Agency very strongly recommend that children traveling out of their home country carry a consent letter proving they have permission to make a trip without one or both of their legal parents or guardians. This sample form letter contains the basic information border officials should need to feel comfortable to allow your child to cross into their country.

When your child reaches the border, customs officials will be making a judgment call as to whether something is wrong. They will very likely address a question or two towards the minor child. If everything seems OK, they may waive the vehicle through without asking for an authorization letter. However, if they have any concerns, they will then begin examining the situation to determine their course of action. The consent letter is useful because it puts all the information they need in one spot and provides an strong indication that the trip is approved by the child's guardians.

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER: BORDER OFFICIALS HAVE COMPLETE AND ABSOLUTE DISCRETION TO ALLOW, OR DENY, ENTRY INTO THEIR COUNTRY TO ANYBODY FOR ANY REASON. WE MAKE ABSOLUTELY NO GUARANTEE THAT THIS LETTER WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO ENABLE A BORDER CROSSING BY A MINOR CHILD. NONE OF THE INFORMATION ON EZBORDERCROSSING.COM IS TO BE CONSIDERED AS LEGAL ADVICE.

This letter is intended for crossing the U.S. / Canadian border and may not be sufficient for international travel to other countries. You should research the requirements for any other country your child will be visiting.

General Instructions

Do not get too hung up on whether you are filling this out perfectly. There is no *legal* format a consent letter must follow.

You can always add a "see attached" comment into any part of this form to include important additional information on another page.

Throughout this form you should use the full name of all parties - first name, middle, and last.

If you have questions, or run into problems using this letter, please let us know immediately so we can modify the letter or instructions for other travelers.

Minor Child Information

A passport is the best type of documentation for your child. If they do not have a passport, they should travel with any other documentation they may have such as a birth certificate and school ID. Put the passport or birth certificate number into the space provided.

Responsible Adult Information

If your child is traveling with only one parent the letter needs to be signed by the parent not on the trip. You can put the traveling parent into the “Responsible Adult #1” and the “Parent or Guardian” sections.

If your child is traveling with someone other than a parent:

- Both parents should sign the letter
- If there is only one Responsible Adult you can write “None” in the space for the second name

Legal Parent / Guardian Information

This letter should be signed by every person who has the legal right to make major decisions on behalf of the child if that person is not accompanying them on the trip.

If both parents are not in the same locale you can execute and notarize two copies of this letter.

The child or responsible adult should also carry a copy of any legal documents pertaining to custody such as:

- A death certificate if one of the parents is deceased
- Divorce degrees and any other custody documentation
- A separate notarized statement or affidavit if one of the legal parent’s whereabouts is unknown.

Notarizing the Letter

There is no legal requirement that you notarize the document but it is recommended by both the U.S. and Canadian border services.

You will need a valid ID for the notary. This Consent Letter must be signed in front of the notary - not before!

Miscellaneous

It would not hurt to provide the child or Responsible Adult with a spare copy of the letter in the event border officials want to keep one copy or the original is lost on the trip.

The letter should be prepared in English.

If you have further questions about your specific situation you may want to contact the border patrol information call centers for either the U.S. or Canada. We have their telephone numbers on the ezbordercrossing.com website under “Official Government Contact Information”.