

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 A Consent Letter to Bring a Child Across the Border?

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. Our sample letter contains the information border officers need in order to feel comfortable about allowing your child to enter their country.

When your child reaches the border, officers 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 begin examining the situation to determine their course of action. The consent letter puts all the information they need in one spot and provides an strong indication that the trip is approved by the child's guardians.

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.

If you have questions, or run into problems using this letter, please let us know immediately so we can improve the letter or these instructions.

General Instructions for filling out the Consent Letter

For the U.S. and Canada this letter should be prepared in English. Do not get too hung up on whether you are filling this out perfectly. There is no *legal* format a consent letter must follow.

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

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

If you are preparing a letter for a group of kids - for example a sports team - you will likely want to modify this letter into a form that parents can just sign.

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 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, put their information into this Responsible Adult section. 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. It is best to have original signatures to show the border officer. If that is just not possible a faxed or scanned copy will have to do.

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 decrees 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 Consent Letter but it is highly recommended by both the U.S. and Canadian border services. We have also heard travelers report that border agents argued that notarizing the letter was mandatory so it is best to have it done.

A Notary is someone who has been approved by the government to act as an impartial witness to the signing of important documents. The notary examines the document and confirms that the signers are who they say they are, that they are signing the document without intimidation, and that they understand what they are signing.

Notaries are very common and can be found in most every city. You should be able to find one with a web search or using the good old phone book. They are typically in administrative positions in locations such as shipping stores, banks, pharmacies, insurance companies, or law offices. Doctors and lawyers are not usually notaries.

We have left space at the end of our sample letter for a notary stamp. This Consent Letter must be signed in front of the notary - not before! You will need a valid ID for the notary.

Miscellaneous

Give your child and/or Responsible Adult a copy of the letter.

You may want to consider preparing a separate "Child Medical Consent Form" which gives a physician permission to treat your child when they are in someone else's care. You should be able to find various sample forms on the web.

DISCLAIMER:

BORDER OFFICIALS HAVE COMPLETE AND ABSOLUTE DISCRETION TO ALLOW OR DENY ENTRY INTO THEIR COUNTRY BY 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.