

Minor Child Traveling to Another Country

When Accompanied by Only One Parent

In an effort to prevent international child abduction, many governments have initiated procedures at entry/exit points. These often include requiring documentary evidence of relationship and permission for the child's travel from the parent(s) or legal guardian not present. Having such documentation on hand, even if not required, may facilitate entry/departure.

For example, a child may be traveling from one country to another accompanied by only one parent. That parent will need to be able to present documentation regarding the parent's relationship to the child, and that the absent parent is aware of the travel and has given permission for the travel to take place.

The specific rules vary according to destination (Mexico is very strict in terms of documentation if a minor child is accompanied by only one parent), and most travel agents would have information available on this matter..

In general, the parent who is traveling with the minor child should have a copy of the birth certificate, or the original birth certificate for the child with him or her, in case asked to produce it (this would be in addition to the passport for the child). In addition, the parent who is traveling should also have a notarized affidavit, prepared by the parent who is NOT traveling, indicating the following information:

That the parent who is not traveling:

Is (full name and date of birth) who currently lives at (address)

Is the mother/father of (child's full name and date of birth)

Is the spouse of (traveling spouse's full name and date of birth)

That the parent who is not traveling has given permission for the parent who is traveling to go to <name of country> on <date> with <child's full name and date of birth>

And that the parent who is not traveling has no objection to this trip

The letter would then be signed and stamped in the presence of a notary public.

* [Click here for a sample letter.](#)

<Full Name and date of birth of parent not traveling>

<Address of parent not traveling>

<City, State, Zip code, of parent not traveling>

<Date>

To Whom It May Concern:

We / I authorize

_____ <name of the child, as stated on passport>

to travel with

_____ <name of parent(s) or guardian(s) traveling with child, as stated on passport>

to

_____. <countries of travel>

They will be departing on

_____ <date of departure, airline and flight number>

and returning on

_____. <date of return, airline and flight number>

_____ < name of parent(s) or guardian(s) traveling with child, as stated on passport >

is the _____ <relation, e.g. mother/father/relative> of

_____ <name of the child, as stated on passport> and

is our/my _____ <relation, e.g. spouse, father, mother>

During this time, if there is a medical emergency, we / I also authorize medical treatment for

_____. <name of the child, as stated on passport>

Should there be any questions, please contact

_____ <name of the parent(s) not accompanying the child>

at _____ <address and phone number(s)>

<Signature of the parent(s) not accompanying the child>

<Printed name of the parent(s) not accompanying the child>