

## US child born in Canada

### Obtaining Social Security Numbers

Parents of US children born abroad should apply for social security numbers for such children (SEE FOLLOWING CONSULATE INFO, IF APPLYING THERE) with Form SS-5 <http://www.ssa.gov/ssnumber/>, or SS-5fs <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/online/ss-5fs.html>, as the case may be. Form SS-5-FS is the form to be completed if one is applying for a number or card on behalf of a child who is living outside the United States.

Parent likely would want to, at same time, apply for a consular report of birth abroad as well. Many people are under the false impression that one must apply for a Social Security card for the child at a government office physically located in the US. In truth, this application may be filed at the US Consulate (possibly except for first-time applicants age twelve or older). Note that generally, citizenship applications, where one parent is a US citizen and has met US residency requirements, can be done at the consulate while others must be made in the US.

Obtaining a social security number for a U.S. citizen while in Canada, involves (at the very least) a trip to the nearest U.S. consulate. The consulate will make a copy of the citizen's U.S. documents, certify them, and send them together with the SSN application to the nearest Social Security office. All Social Security offices are located in the U.S. and a wait-period of up to three months can be expected before receiving a number applied for at a consulate. If one wishes to receive a SSN sooner, one must appear in person at a Social Security office; the closest one to Toronto is in Niagara Falls, USA - located at 6540 Niagara Falls Blvd., Niagara Falls, NY 14304; that office may be contacted at 716-283-1066.

### US Consulate Toronto Visit

Online, book a US consulate appointment, as an appointment is required for all passports, consular report of birth abroad, notarial and other services online at:

<http://toronto.usconsulate.gov/content/content.asp?section=uscitizens&document=appointments>

Before your visit, download (and complete) the ABOVE-MENTIONED form. NOTE: If you do not apply for the child's U.S. passport, but want a Social Security number, you must bring the child's Ontario health card (and THE ACCOMPANYING letter with address) for identification purposes per Social Security Administration requirements. Do not rely on consulate competency alone as they have already botched one SSN application by not including the Ontario health card and attached letter with address. Bring those with you and offer them up (insist) if not asked for them.

Consulate General of the United States of America 360 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1S4  
Canada 416.595.1700 general inquiries, (switchboard operator has no consular or visa information.)  
1.900.451.2778 visa inquiries. Fax: 416.595.1090

After making an appointment (REQUIRED), apply in person at the appointment, entering at 225 Simcoe Street at the rear of the building, **NOT** at 360 University Avenue. It's possible to expect a total of four to six weeks before final determination. Civil records must bear the original seal, stamp or signature of the official government custodian of that record; "certified true copies," hospital or religious records, and notarized or illegible copies are unacceptable. **DO NOT BRING A CELL PHONE OR ANY ELECTRONIC DEVICE AS YOU WILL BE DENIED ENTRY.**

One MUST present the following (this list is not all-inclusive and the consulate may request further evidence as necessary):

- **Your child** (newer rule)
- Application for Consular Report of Birth (DS-2029); obtain this beforehand online at: [http://toronto.usconsulate.gov/content/uscitizens/pdfs/ds\\_2029.pdf](http://toronto.usconsulate.gov/content/uscitizens/pdfs/ds_2029.pdf)  
If only one parent is an American citizen, that parent must appear at the Consulate and fill out an Affidavit of Parentage and Physical Presence, online at: [http://toronto.usconsulate.gov/content/uscitizens/pdfs/parentage\\_presence.pdf](http://toronto.usconsulate.gov/content/uscitizens/pdfs/parentage_presence.pdf)
- Child's **long-version birth certificate**, (in Ontario, the Statement of Live Birth is available through ServiceOntario) stating the child's full name, both parents' names, date/place of birth, and date of registration
- Proof of parent(s)' required physical presence in the U.S. before the child's birth, for a certain period of time as required by law. Note that a U.S. driver's license alone or a single letter/bill showing parents' U.S. address will not suffice.
- Parents' marriage certificate, if married
- Evidence of parents' U.S. citizenship: valid or expired U.S. passport, U.S. birth certificate or U.S. naturalization/citizenship certificate or consular report of birth abroad.
- Parents' current ID containing personal data and photo
- Divorce decrees or death certificates terminating any prior marriages of the parents;
- Fee –SEE [www.consular.canada.usembassy.gov/new\\_consular\\_fees.asp](http://www.consular.canada.usembassy.gov/new_consular_fees.asp)  
OR below FOR CURRENT AMOUNT- payable by cash (US dollars or the equivalent in Canadian dollars), US dollar bank or postal money order (NO personal checks), or credit card (Visa or MasterCard only);
- Prepaid, self-addressed Canada Post Xpresspost envelope. Put your information in both the "To" and "From" sections. Only one envelope per family or group is required. Only the small \$8 express post envelope is needed to be brought and not the \$12 large one. The "To" and "From" sections info on it should **both** be your home address.
- Photocopy of each document for each child, or one US dollar per document that Consulate photocopies.
- Any document not in English must be accompanied by a signed and dated translation completed by a certified translator ("I certify that this is a true and complete translation from x language to English").

### **Applying for SSN at USA Office**

Click here your local Social Security office <http://www.ssa.gov/locator/>.

Note that per the Social Security instructions, you should be able to **mail your application** **BUT** you'd also need to mail your original ID documents whereas the Consulate and Social Security office options allow you to instead take your documents along with this application and the people there will make certified copies of your original documents and mail them to the Social Security Administration along with your application.

If you are not required to go to a Social Security Card Center, you may visit any Social Security office convenient to you. You may locate another office by entering a different zip code. National Toll-Free 1-800-772-1213

### *US Citizenship via US citizen Grandparent*

If you have never resided or been physically present in the U.S. for the required minimum of five years (two of those years after the age of 14), and thus are unable to transmit U.S. citizenship to your children, the children can acquire their citizenship through their American Citizen grandparent who is able to fulfill the 5 / 2 year transmission requirement.

The process whereby the grandparent transmits citizenship is not, however, done at the Consulate, i.e., the Department of State. Only Consular Reports of Birth Abroad (the document a child gets when the parent transmits citizenship) and U.S. passports are through the U.S. Department of State (the consular section). Citizenship through grandparents is only done through the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS), which is under the Department of Homeland Security using form N600K (available under IMMIGRATION FORMS at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) ).

All the forms and supporting documentation can be sent to the USCIS office in Buffalo (the nearest to Toronto) and they will contact you when the paperwork is completed. Everyone must be present at the time the papers are finalized. The Toronto US Consulate is unable to liaison any conferences with them.

Those children are not citizens from birth as they are when issued the Report of Birth Abroad from a consulate (note that US tax law follow US immigration law to determine citizenship and often for tax purposes it's important to determine in what tax year a child is considered a US citizen). They become citizens at the time of their "expeditious naturalization" at the final interview and swearing in at USCIS offices. The children will receive a Certificate of Naturalization and will be able to apply for a U.S. passport at the Consulate with the same.

### *Getting tax refunds for your child who possesses a SSN*

**File a US individual return, with children's social security numbers listed on it, and claim a cash refund of \$1,000 PER CHILD for the additional child tax credit. For taxpayers residing outside the US who have one or more children under age 17 at Dec 31 who are US citizens or residents. Our office can back-file as far back as four tax years before the current tax year. Also, a US child with a valid SSN may be claimed as a dependent for an exemption.**

### **New Consular Fees in Effect on July 13, 2010**

On June 28, 2010, the Department of State published its Schedule of Fees for Consular Services in the Federal Register. The schedule includes fees for passports, immigrant visas and other consular services. The changes will take effect on July 13, 15 days after publication in the Federal Register. The revised fees will cover actual operating expenses for the 301 overseas consular posts, 23 domestic passport agencies and other centers that provide these consular services to U.S. and foreign citizens.

The 27 adjusted fees are based on a Cost of Service Study completed by the Bureau of Consular Affairs in June 2009. The study, which was the most detailed and exhaustive ever conducted by the Department of State,

established the true cost of providing these consular services, which by law must be recovered through collection of fees.

Under the new fee schedule, **passport** and **other Consular fees** are set as follows.

### **New Passport Fees**

New passport fees for the U.S. Passport Book, the U.S. Passport Card, and other passport services will be in effect on Tuesday, July 13, 2010.

The schedule of new fees for passport application services is as follows:

<b>US PASSPORT BOOK</b>			
	<b>Passport Fee</b> Payable to Department of State	<b>Acceptance Fee</b> Payable to Acceptance Facility	<b>Total</b> <b>Applicant Fee</b>
<b>Adults:</b> First-Time (Age 16 and older)	\$110.00	\$25.00	\$135.00
<b>Adults:</b> Renewal (Applying with DS-82)	\$110.00	-	\$110.00
<b>Minors</b> (Under age 16)	\$80.00	\$25.00	\$105.00
<b>U.S. PASSPORT CARD</b>			
	<b>Passport Fee</b> Payable to Department of State	<b>Acceptance Fee</b> Payable to Acceptance Facility	<b>Total</b> <b>Applicant Fee</b>
<b>Adults:</b> First-Time (Age 16 and older)	\$30.00	\$25.00	\$55.00
<b>Adults:</b> Renewal (Applying with DS-82)	\$30.00	-	\$30.00
<b>Minors</b> (Under age 16)	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$40.00

<b>Other Service Fees</b>		
	<b>CURRENT FEE</b>	<b>NEW FEE</b>
<b>Additional Visa Pages</b>	-	\$82.00
<b>File Search Fee</b>	\$60.00	\$150.00
<b>Consular Report of Birth Abroad</b>	\$65.00	\$100.00
<b>Renunciation of U.S. Citizenship</b>	-	\$450.00

#### Use of Passport Fees

Passport application fees are not only used to cover the costs of producing a U.S. Passport Book or Passport Card. Passport fees also cover the costs of providing emergency services for American citizens overseas in crisis situations, such as the current earthquake disaster in Haiti, helping Americans who have been the victims of crime while traveling or living abroad, and providing support to the families of American citizens who have died overseas.

Passport application fees enable us to keep up with technology and implement fraud prevention initiatives to protect the United States passport. The security features of the U.S. passport book have received high praise from document security specialists the world over. Investing in new technology to prevent passport fraud is one of our key priorities, and an ongoing initiative.

Passport fees fund the expansion of passport infrastructure and service, allowing us to offer more timely service to the traveling public, maintain high standards for adjudication in accordance with US citizenship laws, and provide appropriate attention to fraud vulnerabilities.

Over the last few years, the demand for passports has increased to an average of 15 million per year. In FY 2005, we issued 10.1 million passports; peaked at 18.4 million in FY 2007; and expect to issue over 15 million in FY 2010. To increase our presence in underserved areas, the Department has undertaken a systematic expansion of the passport network, particularly in communities affected by the land border-crossing requirements associated with the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. By the end of FY 2010, we will have 23 agencies providing emergency passport services to the general public, three high-volume application processing centers, and two large-scale document print centers.

#### Value of the Passport

The U.S. Passport Book and U.S. Passport Card for adults are valid for ten years. Passports for minors under age 16 are valid for five years. The U.S. Passport is not just used for travel anymore. It serves as proof of U.S. citizenship and identity for important purposes such as work authorization and eligibility for many Federal benefits.

## New Consular Fees

Effective July 13, 2010.

	CURRENT FEE	NEW FEE
<b>Immigrant Visa Fees</b>		
IV Application Processing Fee		
1. Family-based immigrant visa	\$355.00	\$330.00
2. Employment-based immigrant visa	\$355.00	\$720.00
3. Other immigrant visas (SIVs, DVs, etc.)	\$355.00	\$305.00
IV Security Surcharge	\$45.00	\$74.00
Diversity Visa Lottery surcharge	\$375.00	\$440.00
Domestic review of Affidavit of Support	\$70.00	\$88.00
Determining Returning Resident Status	\$400.00	\$380.00
<b>Overseas Citizen Services</b>		
Disposition/ Shipment of Remains of a non-U.S. Citizen	\$265.00 + expenses	\$200.00 + expenses
<b>Documentary Services</b>		
Notarials, Certifications of True Copies, Authentications, provision of Department of State records	\$30.00 (first), \$20.00 (addtl)	\$50.00
<b>Judicial Services</b>		
Processing Letters Rogatory & FSIA	\$735.00	\$2,275.00
Taking Depositions or Executing Commissions:		
1. Scheduling/Arranging Depositions	\$475.00	\$1,283.00
2. Attending or Taking Depositions	\$265.00/hr + expenses	\$309.00/hr + expenses
3. Swearing in Witnesses	\$265.00/hr + expenses	\$231.00/hr + expenses
4. Supervising Telephone Depositions	\$265.00/hr +	\$231.00/hr +

	expenses	expenses
5. Providing Seal and Certification	\$70.00	\$415.00
<b>Administrative Services</b>		
Consular Time Charges (per hour)	\$265.00	\$231.00

\* There will be an additional \$25 Execution/Acceptance fee not retained by Department of State.

## **Questions and Answers**

### GENERAL

*Q: Why are you changing the fees at this time?*

A: To ensure that the Department of State recovers the true costs of consular services through user fees, as required by law. The proposed changes to our fee schedule reflect more accurately the true expenditure of doing business. This way, services of direct benefit to individuals, organizations, or groups are paid for by the users rather than by taxpayers in general.

*Q: Did the Department of State give this much thought?*

A: The Department of State reviewed its current consular fees based on a cost of service study completed in June 2009. This study, involving two years of research, was the most detailed, comprehensive study of consular fees that the Department of State has completed.

*Q: What will the increase in fees pay for?*

A: The proposed changes in consular fees would cover actual operating expenses for the 301 consular posts abroad, 23 domestic passport agencies, and other centers that provide consular services to both U.S and foreign citizens. As is the case in all U.S. government user charges, consular fees allow us to recover the costs of services from which a specific user -- whether a U.S. or foreign citizen -- derives a special benefit beyond those that accrue to the general public. Services of direct benefit to individuals, organizations, or groups are paid for by the users rather than by taxpayers in general.

*Q: Why have some fees increased more than others?*

A: The cost of service study completed in June 2009 is the most detailed and exhaustive study the Department of State has ever conducted. It gives us

greater clarity into our actual costs and allows us to differentiate between specific services within an activity category. As a result, and because it is equitable, we are establishing tiered fees for some service categories, (such as nonimmigrant visa application fees and immigrant visa processing fees). We will charge more for those cases that require extensive processing and less for more straight-forward cases, better reflecting the cost of providing these services.

*Q: Have some fees decreased?*

A: Yes. The fee for determining returning resident status of a U.S. legal permanent resident has decreased from \$400 to \$380 because improvements in automated systems have made it easier to provide that service. The hourly rate for consular time, which is applied to services that are not provided often enough to develop a reliable estimate of the average time involved (such as supervising telephone depositions), has been reduced based on the findings of the cost of service study. The application processing fees for two categories of immigrant visas are also lower than the previous flat fee (see items 32(a) and 32(c) of the proposed Schedule of Fees).

## PASSPORTS

*Q: What will the increase in passport fees pay for?*

A: Over the last five years, the demand for passports has increased to an average of approximately 15 million per year. Historically, Passport Services counter agencies were located primarily on the two coasts and in the center of the country, which left the northern and southern borders relatively underserved. In response to the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), the Department has undertaken a systematic expansion of the network to provide better service to communities that have been particularly affected by the land border crossing requirements associated with that program.

The number of passport facilities has increased significantly since the last comprehensive cost of service study. Four new counter agencies are now serving communities along the southern and northern borders that have been particularly affected by the land border crossing requirements associated with the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. In FY 2004, the State Department had 13 passport agencies open to the public across the United States and two passport centers; by the end of FY 2011, we will have 23 passport agencies and five passport centers, two of which are dedicated to the printing of passport books and passport cards. This expanded service and attendant cost increases has permitted us to provide more timely



service to the traveling public and to maintain high standards for adjudication in accordance with U.S. citizenship laws and with appropriate attention to fraud risks.

It should also be noted that fees for passport books also cover the costs of certain emergency services provided to American citizens overseas. These include assistance to Americans who have been victims of crime or who have been arrested abroad, assistance provided after the death of a U.S. citizen, and visits to U.S. citizens in overseas prisons. These services also include organizing the evacuation of American citizens affected by war or natural disaster in a foreign country, such as victims of the recent earthquake in Haiti. The estimated cost of providing such services to U.S. citizens in Fiscal Year 2009 was almost 300 million dollars.

*Q: Didn't you just recently increase the passport application fee?*

A: The previous update of the Schedule of Fees was in 2005. At that time, the passport application fee was lowered. Passport application fees were raised slightly in February 2008, based on the need to add passport processing capability ahead of the implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, but those increases were based on estimates. The cost of service study completed in June 2009 captures those costs more accurately.

*Q: Why did you lower the passport fee in 2005?*

A: A cost of service study conducted at that time determined that the fee schedule had to be restructured, more accurately reflecting the cost of doing business was in 2005. Costs in 2005 were lower due to an enormous increase in passport workload without a comparable increase in staff. Since then, in order to maintain timely service and ensure the integrity of the issuance process, additional staff have been hired. There have also been significant technological upgrades that enhance the security of the document itself.

*Q: What is the actual cost of processing passport applications?*

A: The June 2009 study estimated that the actual cost of processing first-time passport applications for both adults and minors is \$103.49, including border security costs covered by the passport book security surcharge. Because a minor passport book has a validity of just five years, in contrast with the ten-year validity period of an adult passport book, the Department has decided to leave the minor passport book application fee at \$40, and allocate the remainder of the cost of processing minor passport book

applications to the adult passport book application fee. The Department is raising the security surcharge for both adult and minor passports from \$20 to \$40 to cover the costs of increased border security, which include enhanced biometric features in the document.

**Note:**

- The total charge for a first-time passport book for an adult, including the application fee, security surcharge and execution fee, will increase from \$100 to \$135.
- The total charge for an adult passport book renewal, including the application fee and security surcharge, will increase from \$75 to \$110.
- The total charge for a minor passport book (age 16 and under), including the application fee, security surcharge and execution fee, will increase from \$85 to \$105.

*Q: Why is the Government charging me such a high fee to add passport pages, something previously provided for free?*

A: The cost of service study found that adding visa pages to an existing passport book requires nearly the same resources as producing a new passport book. The study found that the cost of producing the pages, placing them in the book in a secure manner by trained personnel, and completing the required security checks costs the U.S. Government \$82.48. The Department will charge \$82 for this service. Please note that frequent travelers can request a 52-page passport book at no additional cost when they renew, potentially saving them from the additional cost of visa pages.

*Q: Why did the application fee for a passport card go up?*

A: The cost of service study projected that the outlay of processing first-time applications for adult and minor passport cards in Fiscal Year 2010 will be \$77.59. The passport card is intended to be a substantially less expensive document than the passport book for the convenience of citizens who live close to land borders and cross back and forth frequently. Therefore, the Department has decided to raise the adult passport card application fee from \$20 to just \$30, and the child passport card application fee from \$10 to just \$15.

*Q: You just implemented WHTI, which requires me to have a passport, and now are raising the fees I have to pay?*

A: Independent of the new travel regulations, the Department of State's cost of producing passport books and passport cards has increased. Our new fees reflect the cost of providing passport services to the American public.

*Q: Has the passport application execution/acceptance fee now increased?*

A: No, the passport application execution/acceptance fee will remain the same, \$25.

*Q: If the passport fees increased, why didn't the passport application execution/acceptance fee increase?*

A: The Department of State reviewed the cost factors for the execution of passport applications separately from the application fee. In order to determine the appropriate execution fee, and since postal acceptance facilities comprise the majority of our acceptance facility network, Department officials consulted with the United States Postal Service. We agreed to charge a \$25 acceptance/execution fee that would appropriately recover costs and ensure that our acceptance facilities can continue to provide passport acceptance service to our customers.

*Q: Why was the File Search Fee increased?*

A: The Department is raising the fee for file searches from \$60 to \$150 based on the cost of providing the service. Applicants can avoid paying this fee by providing adequate citizenship documentation when applying for a passport rather than requesting an expensive, time-intensive file search.

*Q: How can I get more information about passport fees?*

A: Information about passport fees, as well as how and where to apply for a U.S. passport book or card, can be found on the Department of State's web site at [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov).

#### OVERSEAS CITIZEN SERVICES FEES

*Q: Why does it cost so much money for me to renounce my U.S. citizenship?*

A: Renouncing one's U.S. citizenship is a significant step that requires thorough and careful attention. We take seriously our responsibilities for ensuring that people know the consequences of their decision and that each case is properly handled. As a result, the adjudication of renunciation cases is very costly per case. The new fee of \$450 helps cover those costs.

*Q: Did the fee also change for a Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States?*

A: Yes. The fee will increase from \$65 to \$100, which is still significantly less than the cost indicated by the cost of service study. We opted not to raise it as high as actual cost so as not to discourage U.S. citizen parents seeking to document their children. It is in the national interest that U.S. citizen parents document the citizenship of their children at birth and, because most parents also apply for a passport at the same time, a fee greater than \$100 would be a disincentive.

#### IV FEES

*Q: Are immigrant visa (IV) fees being increased?*

A: Yes. The Department is increasing most immigrant visa (IV) processing fees based on results of the cost of service study. IV processing fees were last increased in 2005, to \$355 per person. The Department now proposes to increase the application processing fee for most IV categories and establish multiple fees. Under the new schedule of fees, IV applicants will pay: \$330 for immediate relative and family preference cases; \$720 for employment-based cases; and \$305 for other categories (including Diversity Visa, SE category special immigrant, and self-petitioner cases). (Special immigrants under Section 1244 of the Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 and Section 602(b) of the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009 remain fee-exempt.) The IV security surcharge, paid by all non-fee-exempt applicants, will increase from \$45 to \$74. The Diversity Visa (DV) surcharge will increase from \$375 to \$440. The fee for Affidavit of Support (I-864) Review will increase from \$70 to \$88. The fee for determining Returning Resident Status will decrease from \$400 to \$380.