

New regulations for Families travelling to South Africa

From 1st October 2014, South Africa will be enforcing new anti-child trafficking regulations. This affects all families travelling with children arriving, leaving and flying within South Africa's borders.

The arrival airline flying into South Africa will be checking that you have the relevant documentation before boarding.

The standard requirement is that all children under the age of 18 years travelling with two parents need to travel with both their **passport AND an original full (or unabridged) birth certificate** (inclusive of the names of both parents).

If you are a South African citizen, you may have certified copies of such documents made at South Africa House in London. If you are a foreigner, copies of the originals must be certified by a Notary. Therefore we recommend bringing the original document. Getting a notarised copy is an expensive business. If you do not wish to take the original birth certificate, we recommend getting a duplicate. In most countries this is a relatively straight forward process which is both inexpensive and quick to do online.

However if the parent's names on the children's birth certificates differ from their current names or if a child is travelling with only one parent or other adults, there are important additional requirements.

One parent travelling with his/her children:

Additional documentation

- Children's unabridged birth certificate
- Consent in the form of an Affidavit from the other parent registered on the birth certificate authorizing him/her to travel with the child, and to enter into and depart from South Africa

Single parent family travelling with his/her children (if other parent is registered on the children's birth certificate):

Additional documentation

- Children's unabridged birth certificate
- Consent in the form of an Affidavit from the other parent authorizing him/her to travel with the child, and to enter into and depart from South Africa
- **OR** a Court Order granting full parental responsibilities and rights or legal guardianship of the child
- **OR** a death certificate of the deceased parent

NB: If ONLY the mother's name is given on the birth certificate, then the birth certificate will suffice

Parents travelling with his/her adopted children if children's names on the birth certificate differ from the parents:

Additional documentation

- Children's unabridged birth certificate
- A Court Order granting full parental responsibilities and rights or legal guardianship

Parents travelling with their children who were born in or out of wedlock (if the mother has altered her maiden name later on):

In this case the mother's name on the birth certificate will no longer match her married name on her passport.

Additional documentation

- Children's unabridged birth certificate
- Parent's marriage certificate

NB: If the mother has not changed her name, then there should be no need for the marriage certificate.

Children travelling with their legal guardians:

Additional documentation

- Children's unabridged birth certificate
- Certified copy of Court Order granting legal guardianship of the child/children

Children travelling with grandparents or other adults:

Additional documentation

- A copy of the child's unabridged birth certificate
- Consent in the form of an Affidavit from the parents authorizing him/her to travel with the child, and to enter into and depart from South Africa
- Copies of the identity documents or passports of the parents or legal guardians
- Contact details of the parents or legal guardian of the child/children

Unaccompanied minor:

Additional documentation

- Proof of consent from one or both parents or legal guardian of the child in the form of a letter for the child to travel into or depart from South Africa
- If **only one** parent provides proof of consent, that parent must provide a copy of a Court Order granting full parental responsibilities and rights or legal guardianship of the child.
- Letter from the person receiving the child in South Africa containing his or her residential address and contact details of where the child will be residing
- A copy of the identity document or valid passport and visa or permanent residence permit of the person which is to receive the child in South Africa
- Contact details of the parents or legal guardian of the child

Foreign Languages:

If the birth certificate is in a foreign language (not English), the person's name on the passport and on the birth certificate must be spelt in the same way. If a letter of consent is required to give approval for a child to travel with one parent or another adult, this letter must be produced in English.