



October 16, 2020

Dear Colleagues, Clients and Friends:

We hope this newsletter #8 finds you all safe and ready to return to work helping our collective clients get home as soon as possible. The few days has brought several significant developments that brings the near future into much clearer perspective on passport expediting so we can collectively help get your clients home as soon as possible.

The Department of Consular Affairs updated their website announcing that while they're continuing to honor life-or-death emergencies, they've announced the return of in-person passport submissions at Passport Agencies, regardless of the Phase of operation the Agency is in.

Their specific statement said:

"All of our agencies and centers are processing passport applications. To prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect our workforce and customers, we are prioritizing in-person appointments at our agencies and centers for customers who are traveling internationally in the next 72 hours (3 business days) due to a [life-or-death emergency](#). **We are also offering a limited number of appointments for customers who have urgent international travel in the next 72 hours (3 business days) for reasons other than a life-or-death emergency.** Customers must wear cloth face coverings in all common areas, including our lobbies, and observe strict social distancing."

[SOURCE](#)

Their guidelines are as follows:

1. International travel must take place no more than 10-business days from the date of the [online application](#) or call to the National Passport Information Center (NPIC) 1-877-487-2778
2. The appointment will be set no more than 3 business days from the date of international travel
3. The applicant must have a flight itinerary
4. The parent/s and newborn **MUST** appear in person at the Passport Agency
5. Expedited fees will apply

Note:

1. Processing times should be same day for morning appointments. Afternoon appointments may not result in same day processing
2. If a visa is also required the appointment can be made for the next day and the 3-day rule doesn't apply, however a flight itinerary to a country requiring a visas will be required (China, India, Vietnam, Russia, etc.).



Passport Application Example 1 – IPs are from Denmark:

- Travel is on Oct 30th
- Appointment can't be made before Oct 16th (ten business days)
- The earliest appointment is Tuesday, Oct 27th (based on appointment availability)
- Additional appointments could be made on Oct 28-29 (but not before Oct 27th)

Passport Application Example 2– IPs are from Denmark:

- Travel is on Nov 4th
- Appointment can't be made before Oct 21st (ten business days)
- The earliest appointment is Friday, Oct 30th (based on appointment availability)
- Additional appointments could be made on Nov 2-3

Passport Application Example 3 – IPs are from China:

- Travel is on Oct 30th
- Appointment can't be made before Oct 16th (ten business days)
- The earliest appointment is Friday, Oct 16th (based on appointment availability)
- Additional appointments could be made any date thereafter (based on appointment availability)

A personal appearance by parent/s and child are required at the Passport Agency, social distancing and masks will be required for all adults. Proof of international travel will be required.

Current Lead times:

For those not applying in person, the State Department lists standard passport processing at 10-12 weeks and expedited at 4-6 weeks, with some reports of earlier return of their passports that cited by the Passport Agency. Its too early to know if these are exceptions or the new normal.

Submission Options (not in-person submissions):

Whether to submit or to wait until third party submissions return is up to the applicant to decide what's right for their family. If birth certificates are in hand and the application process is ready to begin then consider the following:

- For applications submitted after Oct 16th, the passport should back in hand around the time PVA can begin to expedite, or up to two weeks after, possibly after Thanksgiving.
- For applications submitted later in October or early November – it might be best to wait and let PVA submit the application in person, or apply at the closest Passport Agency if applicable.



When can PVA apply for me?:

Still uncertain, as no update was provided about the third-party walk-in services PVA typically provides. PVA is still hopeful that we will be able to return to in-person submitting in the next few weeks.

How can PVA help now?

While PVA can't help with direct submissions, we do offer three types of supporting services:

- Kit 1 – PVA create the passport application, and supporting documents for the applicant based on information provided by the client. All documents are sent via secure email along with complete instructions on how to proceed. The applicant will print the documents, make their Acceptance Agency appointment and apply for their passport. Cost is \$75
- Kit 2 – PVA provides the information listed above in Kit 1, however we print the documents and send to the client via FedEx overnight services. We can make the Acceptance Agency appointment for the client as well. Cost is \$135.
- Kit 3 – PVA provides the information in Kits 1 & 2, prints the passport photo for the client and provides the necessary money orders for the applicant to use at the Acceptance Agency. Documents, money orders and full instructions are FedExed to the client. Cost is \$335 for a minor's expedited passport kit. Standard processing reduces the fee by \$60 and an adult application increases the \$335 fee to \$365.
- Last, PVA offers a consultative service of \$100 for applicants who want to apply on their own and need guidance on how to process the application successfully. We will discuss how the process works, review the application they created and tell them how to obtain an Acceptance Agency appointment. We offer a \$25 discount off our consultative services if the applicant uses one or our kits as well.

Thank you all for your calls and emails. This has been a very tough seven months (30 weeks today) for all of us, but I can't tell you how much your support has meant to us. We are seeing the much closer to the return of normalcy if we can stick it out for just a bit longer!

Please call either Catie, Anne or Marc if we can be of service to you and your clients.

Best Regards,

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