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How A Passport Agency Can Assist Expedite Your Vacation Plans

Before 2009, it was possible to depart and re-enter the United States from Canada, Mexico, Panama, Bermuda and some Caribbean countries using only a valid birth certificate or driver's license. Due to heightened security issues, however, all people leaving and returning to the United States must now carry a valid passport. If an unexpected or unplanned foreign trip becomes urgent, a regional passport agency can help with rush requests.

Online Forms

Most first-time applicants, along with those wishing to renew an existing document, can obtain the correct forms via the Internet. In addition, valid proof of citizenship and the proper photos are necessary. In most cases the applicant will then visit the closest nearby acceptance facility to submit that application along with the other necessary documents and to pay the required fees.

Time It Takes

A four to six-week wait is common. This poses no problem for travelers having plenty of time to plan ahead, but is not ideal in many rush situations. It is possible, however, to speed up the process by going directly to a regional center. These facilities have the ability to immediately approve an application and to present a finished document more rapidly.

Acceptance Facilities

There are real differences between a local acceptance office and a regional agency. The acceptance office may be closer to home and is ideal for most standard requests. It will also work with fee-based professional expediting services. By contrast, a regional office is equipped to handle time-constrained emergency requests much more rapidly than standard processing guidelines allow.

Regional Facilities

Within the U. S., there are thirteen official regional agencies with locations and toll-free numbers readily available on line. In addition to physically creating the documents, one of their primary functions is to serve customers with urgent travel needs. While there are no absolute guarantees, many people are able to get a completed passport on the same day as their appointment.

Proof Of Travel

At the time of your visit, proof of the actual trip schedule is necessary. It can be a prepaid itinerary from your travel agent or a downloaded airline ticket. An appointment time is required and may be created by calling the toll-free number on the government website and then following the prompts. Only those scheduled to leave within two weeks will be accepted for appointments.

Set Up The Appointment

After receiving an appointment confirmation number, all applicants must bring the necessary proofs of citizenship and regulation photos along with an acceptable form of payment. Fill out the forms carefully because mistakes will normally cause delays. And, because these are governmental offices, be prepared to deal with stringent security measures such as metal detectors or other devices.

In addition to speeding up the entire [first time United States passport](#) application process, visiting a regional center can save money. Some people pay a professional service an additional fee to do the legwork but those costs can be avoided by personally visiting one of the thirteen centers. While same day service is not guaranteed due to varying demand and workload, chances are your document will be processed by the [U.S. passport agency](#) in plenty of time for your trip abroad.

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