

THE MORNING CALM

A NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES UNIT

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ACS FEE INCREASES EFFECTIVE JULY 13

Big news that you need to know – all American Citizen Services fees will go up effective on Tuesday, July 13, 2010, based on a Department of State cost of service analysis. The most notable change is that additional passport pages will go from no charge to a fee of \$82. The following are highlights of the other fee increases:

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ The fee for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad will increase from \$65 to \$100.
- ◆ Notarial and authentication services, which now range from \$20 to \$30, will increase to \$50 for each service.

All applicants for new passports have the option of requesting 52 page passport books, and I recommend that those of you with frequent international travel request the bigger books to make it less likely you will need additional pages later on.

These fees are being increased based on the most detailed and exhaustive cost of service study the State Department has ever conducted. The study determined what it actually costs us to provide passport and notarial services overseas. More details on the July 13 fee increases will be on our Websites shortly.

Robert (Buck) Waldrop
ACS Chief

MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENTS FOR SERVICES EARLY!

Since we introduced our new appointment system in March, the response has been very positive. All appointments are serviced before walk-ins, which means you can get in and out of the embassy faster. The next time you plan on visiting the embassy, please be sure to make an appointment beforehand: http://seoul.usembassy.gov/acs_appt.html.

In addition, those of you applying for passport services can use our on-line "Passport Wizard" in order to speed things up even more (see <https://pptform.state.gov/>).

Have you already used the appointment system? Have some questions or comments? Please send your feedback to seoulinfo@state.gov! Thanks!

CONTACT US!

American Citizen Services
U.S. Embassy Seoul
32, Sejongno, Jongno-gu
Seoul 110-710, Korea

- or -

American Citizen Services
U.S. Embassy, Seoul
Unit #15550
APO AP 96205-5550

Tel: 02-397-4040 (Passport)
Tel: 02-397-4114 (Other Services)
Fax: 02-397-4080
DSN: 721-4114

English: www.asktheconsul.org/
Korean: www.usavisas.org/
E-mail: seoulinfo@state.gov

HAVE YOU REGISTERED YOUR SUMMER TRAVEL?

The State Department strongly encourages American citizens living or planning to travel abroad to register your travel with the Department of State. Registration makes it possible to contact you if necessary, whether because of a family emergency in the United States or because of a crisis where you are visiting. Registration is a free service provided by the State Department, and is easily accomplished online at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>.

Note that, in accordance with the Privacy Act, the Department of State may not release your information without your express written authorization.

You should also fill out the emergency contact information section in your passport. If something happens to you overseas, your passport is the first place local authorities will look to find someone to notify. Write the information in pencil if you think you may need to change it in the future.

We also advise leaving a detailed itinerary and copies of your passport biographical-data page with a friend or relative in the United States. For more information, please visit: http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html#residing

CONSULAR SERVICES IN BUSAN

Officials from the Embassy's American Citizen Services Unit will offer consular services in Busan on Monday, August 16 and Tuesday, August 17, 2010. A Consular Officer will be available on August 16, from 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. and on August 17, from 9:00 a.m.–noon at the American Presence Post, Lotte Gold Rose Building (also known as the Job Center Building), #150-3, Yangjung-dong, Busanjin-gu, Room No. 612.

American citizens will be able to apply for U.S. passports, additional visa pages in their current passports, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, and Social Security cards. Consular officers will also offer notarial services and provide information regarding voting, federal benefits, and registration with the Embassy. Any questions about requirements should be directed by email to seoul_acs@state.gov.

THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR

June 25th marked the 60th anniversary of the start of the Korean War, and commemorations will continue throughout 2010. Do you have any friends, family, or other acquaintances traveling to Korea for the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War? If so, below is a helpful website to share with them. Prior to traveling, kindly visit: http://seoul.usembassy.gov/veterans_info.html. For more information on the 60th Anniversary, visit <http://eng.koreanwar60.go.kr/>.

NEW RULES ON DUAL NATIONALITY

The Korean National Assembly recently passed a law allowing some overseas Koreans to maintain dual nationality. The law also allows some talented foreign residents to obtain Korean citizenship without giving up their own.

For more information on this new law and how it might affect you, please contact the Korean Immigration Service: <http://seoul.immigration.go.kr/HP/IMM80/index.do?strOrgGbnCd=104000>.

HOLIDAY CLOSURE: JULY 5TH

The Embassy will be closed on the following day:

July 5, 2010: (Monday) Independence Day

Please be advised that the days just before and after a holiday are usually exceptionally busy in the American Citizen Services Unit of the Embassy. Do not be surprised at a significantly longer wait for consular services on those days.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

HOW DO I GET A REPLACEMENT PASSPORT FOR MY CHILD?

Passport applications for children require more documentation than passports for adults. If your child is under 16 years old and needs a replacement passport soon, make an appointment to visit our office at http://seoul.usembassy.gov/acs_appt.html, and gather the following:

- Your child’s old passport.
- A completed Application for a U.S. passport. You can fill it out online with the passport wizard here: http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/minors/minors_834.html.
- Be sure to include your child’s Social Security Number under Section 5 of the application.
- Two 2” x 2” photos of your child looking straight ahead, with a white background. Ask for the “American visa size” if you are going to a photo store.
- An original or a copy of the child’s birth certificate. This establishes the relationship between the child and parents.
- Children change so much in their first years. Please help us connect the young child in the old photo with the 5 year-old child standing in front of us.
- Photo identification for both parents.
- \$85 for the application and execution fee.



The child must appear personally in front of a consular officer. Both parents must sign the child’s passport application or otherwise give permission for the passport to be issued. If your family has special circumstances, check our website for more information at http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/minors/minors_834.html or email us at seoulinfo@state.gov.



TRAVEL WARNINGS

The U.S. Department of State has recently issued travel warnings or travel alerts for the following countries and regions. If you are traveling to any of these regions in the near future, please consult travel.state.gov for more information.

Travel Alerts:

Canada	06/17/2010
Pacific Typhoon Season	06/16/2010
Hurricane Season	06/16/2010
Jamaica	06/14/2010
South Africa	05/25/2010
Ethiopia	04/13/2010

Travel Warnings:

Guinea	06/16/2010
Nepal	06/15/2010
Nigeria	06/15/2010
Afghanistan	05/25/2010
Burundi	05/19/2010
Cote d'Ivoire	05/12/2010
Niger	05/11/2010
Mexico	05/06/2010
Georgia	05/03/2010
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	04/21/2010
Philippines	04/02/2010
Algeria	04/02/2010
Lebanon	03/29/2010

Worldwide Caution February 10, 2010

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_4787.html

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please go to this site:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html