Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Passport

A. GENERAL PASSPORT SERVICES

Q1. How do I apply for an Indian passport through the Consulate General of India, Chicago?

Applicants must complete the online passport application through the Passport Seva Portal and submit the required documents through VFS Global. Complete the application, upload the required documents, review the checklist, pay the fees, and submit through VFS Global.

Passport Seva Portal: https://mportal.passportindia.gov.in/mission/

Q2. What passport services are available?

Fresh passports, reissue due to expiry, exhaustion of pages, lost or damaged passports, changes in personal particulars, and Tatkal services where eligible.

Q3. How long does passport processing take?

Normal reissue generally takes approximately 10–15 working days for complete applications not requiring additional verification. Eligible Tatkal cases may take approximately 3 working days. These are estimates, excluding VFS and postal transit, and may be longer when verification is required.

Q4. How can I track my passport application?

Use the Passport Seva Portal or VFS Global tracking service with the application reference number.

https://mportal.passportindia.gov.in/mission/TrackApplication

Q5. When can I apply for passport reissue?

Generally within one year before expiry or after expiry. Reissue is also available for exhausted pages, lost or damaged passports, and changes in particulars. Some students may qualify for earlier reissue.

Q6. Can I reissue a passport that expired more than three years ago?

Yes. Fresh police verification is generally required, and processing depends on the necessary clearance.

Q7. What is the difference between a 36-page and a 60-page passport?

Both are ordinary passport booklets. The 60-page booklet provides additional pages for frequent travelers.

Q8. Is an Aadhaar card mandatory for passport reissue?

Not generally for every overseas application. Follow the current application and document checklist.

Q9. Can I travel if my passport has less than six months of validity?

Requirements vary by destination, transit country, and airline. Verify them before travel.

B. MINOR PASSPORT APPLICATIONS

Q10. What is the validity of a minor's passport?

Generally five years or until age 18, whichever is earlier. Eligible applicants aged 15–18 may apply for ten-year validity under applicable rules.

Q11. Is parental consent required for a minor passport application?

Yes. Applicable declarations such as Annexure D or Annexure C and supporting documents may be required depending on parental consent and custody circumstances.

Q12. Can a child born in the United States obtain an Indian passport?

An eligible child may obtain an Indian passport after satisfying citizenship-by-descent and birth-registration requirements.

Q13. Does a minor need to appear at the VFS Global centre?

Follow the current VFS Global instructions for the applicable application and submission category.

C. LOST, STOLEN, OR DAMAGED PASSPORTS

Q14. What should I do if my Indian passport is lost or stolen?

Report the loss to local police and apply for reissue through VFS Global with the required documents, including a police report where prescribed.

Q15. Can I apply for a lost passport if I do not have a photocopy?

Yes, subject to additional verification. Provide as many previous passport details as possible and contact the Passport Section if necessary.

Q16. What should I do if my passport is damaged?

Apply for reissue under the damaged-passport category and submit the damaged passport and required documents.

Q17. Will my reissued passport have the same passport number?

No. A reissued passport normally receives a new passport number.

Q18. What should I do if I lose my passport and need urgent travel to India?

Contact the Consulate about eligibility for an Emergency Certificate, generally a one-way document for return to India.

D. CHANGES IN PASSPORT PARTICULARS

Q19. How can I change my name after marriage or divorce?

Apply for reissue and submit the required marriage, divorce, or other supporting documents.

Q20. How can I add or remove my spouse's name?

Apply for reissue with the prescribed supporting documents.

Q21. How can I change my address in my passport?

Apply for reissue with the applicable address documents. Police verification may be required.

Q22. Can I correct my date of birth, place of birth, or a spelling error?

Corrections are subject to passport rules and documentary evidence. Contact the Passport Section if the passport was printed incorrectly despite correct application details.

E. POLICE VERIFICATION AND IMMIGRATION STATUS

Q23. Is police verification required for passport re-issuance?

Yes. Police Verification (PV) is initiated by the Consulate to verify the applicant's identity and residential credentials in India. Local police authorities generally conduct verification at the Indian address provided in the application within 1–2 weeks.

Q24. Can I apply for a passport if my U.S. visa or immigration status has expired?

Yes. However, additional documentation and examination may be required. Depending on the circumstances, a Short Validity Passport or Emergency Certificate may be considered. Applicants are advised to contact the Consulate for further guidance.

Q25. Why is Police Verification (PV) required in India if I reside in the USA? How can I expedite the process?

Police Verification is part of the Indian passport issuance and re-issuance process and is conducted through the relevant police authorities in India.

To facilitate timely verification, particularly when no one is available at the Indian address provided, applicants may request a relative or acquaintance to contact the concerned local police station and assist with the verification process, subject to the requirements of the police authorities.

Q26. I have received my new passport, but Police Verification (PV) in India is still pending. Do I need to take any action?

If the police have contacted you or your family in India:

Provide the requested information or supporting documents to facilitate completion of the verification process. Documentary requirements may vary depending on the individual case.

If the police have not contacted you or your family in India:

No immediate action is required. The concerned police authorities or the Consulate will contact you if additional information or further action is necessary.

Important: Your issued passport remains valid for international travel while Police Verification is pending, unless specific restrictions apply. Applicants must cooperate with the concerned authorities to ensure completion of the verification process.

F. TATKAL PASSPORT SERVICES

Q27. Who is eligible for Tatkal passport service, and how can I apply?

Tatkal is expedited processing for eligible applications. Complete the online application and follow the prescribed VFS Global procedure and documentation requirements.

Q28. Can I apply under Tatkal if my passport is lost or damaged?

No. Lost, stolen, and damaged passport applications are excluded under the published Chicago guidance. Apply through the appropriate regular category.

PASSPORT ASSISTANCE

VFS Global: https://services.vfsglobal.com/usa/en/ind/apply-passport

Consulate Passport Section: passport.chicago@mea.gov.in