

Travelling with Children

Please note that a number of changes have been made to the South African Immigration Act with regard to travelling with children. In brief the following regulations now apply:

- Any child who is in alternative care as defined in the Children's Act, shall, before departing from South Africa, produce a certified copy of an authorisation letter from the Provincial Head of the Department where the child resided as contemplated in Section 169 of the Children's Act.
- An immigration officer shall refuse any person who does not comply permission to depart from South Africa.
- Where parents are travelling with a child, the parents need to produce an unabridged birth certificate for the child reflecting both parents particulars.
- Where one parent is travelling with a child, he or she must produce an unabridged birth certificate and consent in the form of:
 - an affidavit from the other parent registered as a parent on the child's birth certificate authorizing him or her to enter into or depart from South Africa with the child.
 - A court order granting full parental responsibilities and rights or legal guardianship in respect of the child, if he or she is the parent or legal guardian of the child, or
 - Where applicable, a death certificate of the other parent registered as a parent of the child on the birth certificate.
- Where a person is travelling with a child who is not his or her biological child, he or she must produce:
 - A copy of the unabridged birth certificate of the child
 - An affidavit from the parents or legal guardian of the child confirming that he or she has permission to travel with the child.
 - Copies of the identity documents or passports of the parents or legal guardian of the child and
 - The contact details of the parents or legal guardian of the child.