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## TOURIST ADVISORY South African Visitor's Visas



home affairs  
Department:  
Home Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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### DEFINITIONS

#### PARENT

- Biological or adoptive parents
- Includes any court appointed legal guardian

#### CHILD/MINOR

South African law regards any person younger than 18 years as a child or minor.

#### UNABRIDGED BIRTH CERTIFICATE

**South Africans:** An official birth document reflecting the identity and vital particulars of the parents of a child issued on application by the Department of Home Affairs.

**Foreigners:** Any official document issued in the country of nationality or permanent residence of the visitor indicating the vital particulars of the parents of a child.



### TRAVELING WITH CHILDREN

#### REQUIREMENTS

Whenever an adult travels with a child, he or she has to produce amongst others an unabridged birth certificate in respect of that child at any South African port of entry. This applies to:

- South African travellers travelling internationally and returning to the Republic from another country;
- foreign nationals travelling to and from the Republic who require a visa to visit South Africa; and
- foreign nationals travelling to and from the Republic who do not require a visa to visit South Africa.

**Both parents travelling together who are accompanied by one or more children, have to produce:**

- a passport and/or visa for each traveller, including every child; and
- an unabridged birth certificate of each child.

**Where only one parent is travelling with a child, he or she has to produce:**

- a passport and/or visa for each traveller, including every child;
- an unabridged birth certificate of every child; and
- a recently dated affidavit from the other parent registered on the birth certificate of the child authorising him or her to enter into or depart from South Africa with the child; alternatively
- a court order granting full parental responsibilities and rights or legal guardianship in respect of any child to the travelling parent; alternatively
- a death certificate of the other parent.

**Where a person is travelling with a child who is not his or her biological child, he or she has to produce:**

- a passport and/or visa for each traveller, including every child;
- an unabridged birth certificate of the child;
- an affidavit from both parents giving permission to travel with the child; alternatively an affidavit from one parent and death certificate or court order reflecting full parental rights having been conferred on the single parent;
- copies of the ID's or passports of the parents or legal guardian of the child; and
- the telephonic contact numbers of the parents of the child.



**An unaccompanied child has to produce:**

- a passport and/or visa;
- a letter or affidavit of consent from one of or both his or her parents or legal guardian granting permission to the child to travel into or depart from South Africa;
- where only one parent provides proof of consent, that parent must also provide a copy of a court order in terms of which he or she has full parental responsibilities and rights in respect of the child;
- a letter from the person who is to receive her or him in South Africa containing that person's residential address and contact details in South Africa where the child will be residing;
- a copy of the identity document or valid passport and visa or permanent residence permit of the person who is to receive the child;
- and the contact numbers of the parents or legal guardian of the child.

## APPLICATION IN PERSON

**An application for a South African visa is made:**

- online by securing a personal appointment at a VFS Centre;
- in person at a South African foreign mission (embassy or consulate) in all countries where Visa Facilitation Service (VFS) centres are not available;
- in person at the nearest South African foreign mission in another country if South Africa does not have a mission in the traveller's home country; or

An applicant's biometrics will be taken and interviews will be carried out, where necessary, at the relevant mission or VFS Centre.

**Change of status**

Any person who holds a visitor's visa for purposes of being a tourist or a medical treatment visa may not apply for a change of visa status while present in the Republic.

**Overstays**

Any person overstaying in South Africa beyond the expiry date of his or her visa, will be declared undesirable for a period of time depending on the length of time of her overstay or whether he or she is a first repeat offender, which means that no visa of whatever nature will be issued to such a person for the period of undesirability.

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