



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Australian Government

Attorney-General's Department

## Applying for a passport for a child adopted through intercountry adoption

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide families, whether in Australia or overseas, information about applying for Australian passports for adopted children. Families may find it useful to take a copy of this fact sheet with them to their child's passport interview. Families should not rely solely on this fact sheet and should visit [www.passports.gov.au](http://www.passports.gov.au) for comprehensive information about applying for a child's passport.

The table below sets out the required documents and their alternatives that parents must provide with their child's passport application.

Purpose	Required document	Appropriate alternative
Evidence of child's identity (full name)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full Australian birth certificate or</li> <li>Full overseas birth certificate (with an official English translation if in a foreign language)</li> </ul>	Adoption certificate, adoption order or equivalent document showing the full name of the child
Evidence of child's Australian citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full Australian birth certificate and evidence of one parent's Australian citizenship or permanent residency status, issued at the time of the child's birth (only if the child was born after 20/08/1986) or</li> <li>Australian citizenship certificate</li> </ul>	N/A
Evidence of the child's legal parents who can give consent to the issue of child's passport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full Australian birth certificate (showing both names of the adoptive parents)</li> </ul>	Adoption certificate, adoption order or equivalent document showing the full names of both parents and proving parental responsibility for the child
Confirm the identity of the legal parent lodging the passport application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documents that show the parent's name, photograph, signature and current address (such as a current passport or drivers licence in conjunction with a document showing current residential address)</li> </ul>	N/A
Verify the information on the foreign language documents (adoption certificate, adoption order or equivalent document)	<p>Official translation of foreign language documents from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the relevant Central Authority (foreign adoption agency) or</li> <li>a translator accredited with the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) or</li> <li>An Australian diplomatic or consular post/Department of Immigration and Citizenship approved translation service</li> </ul>	An "Information Letter" provided on Australian State or Territory Central Authority letterhead including details of the child's name, birth date and parents' full names



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## Background

### Intercountry Adoption

In some countries, for a range of complex cultural and economic reasons, children are unable to be cared for by their families in their country of origin. Intercountry adoption provides permanent family care by Australian families for such children. Australia is party to the *Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Intercountry Adoption* which establishes international principles to ensure that intercountry adoptions occur only where it is in the best interest of the child. In Australia, intercountry adoptions are facilitated through State and Territory Central Authorities.

### The purpose for producing documentation at the time of application

Prior to issuing an Australian passport to a child, the Australian Government needs to establish the child's identity and identity of the legal parents, the child's Australian citizenship, and that parental consent to the issue of a passport to the child (from the child's legal parents) has been given.

Establishing parental consent to a child being issued a passport is a legal requirement under the *Australian Passports Act 2005* for all child passport applications. It is designed to protect children from abduction and safeguard the rights of all people with parental responsibility for children.

To establish the elements above, the Australian Government requires particular documents at the time of the passport application. However, these may be difficult to obtain due to the circumstances of the adoption and the documents issued by the child's country of origin. Adoptive families may provide alternative documentation, where applicable.

### Translations

A translator accredited with National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) must perform translations of documents into English in Australia. Overseas, an Australian diplomatic or consular post/Department of Immigration and Citizenship approved service may perform the translation.

However, many foreign intercountry adoption authorities will provide English versions of documents. In these circumstances, it may not be necessary for adoptive families to have their child's documentation translated.

Children adopted through intercountry adoption who can provide the Australian Passport Office with an "Information Letter" on State or Territory Central Authority letterhead including details of the child's name, birth date and parents' full names may not be required to obtain translations of foreign language documents.

***This information is only applicable to Australian families seeking Australian passports for children adopted through country programs managed by the Australian State and Territory Central Authorities. If you have adopted your child without the involvement of an Australian State or Territory Central Authority please contact the Australian Passport Information Service on 131 232 for advice.***