



Ministry of the Interior and
Kingdom Relations

Information leaflet

Inclusion of children in passports and other travel documents
to be abolished with effect **from 26 June 2012**

Inclusion of children to be abolished

With effect from **26 June 2012** it will no longer be possible to include children in Dutch passports, refugee travel documents or aliens travel documents. Existing inclusions will also lose their validity on that date. 'Inclusions' here refers to both inclusions printed in the passport or travel document when it was issued and children's stickers added later. This measure is due to the entry into force of the European Regulation¹. The Passports Act is being brought into line with the European legislation. The abolition of the facility for including children applies to the Kingdom as a whole, in other words both in the European and Caribbean Netherlands and the Caribbean countries of Curaçao, Aruba and Sint Maarten.

Why are inclusions being abolished?

As of 26 June 2012 the European Regulation makes the principle of 'one person per passport' mandatory. The reason is that an inclusion in a passport or travel document is more susceptible to fraud than a document issued in the name of only one person. It is easier to verify a child's identity if the child has been issued with his or her own passport or travel document. The measure will not only improve the reliability of children's travel documents, it may also reduce the risk of international abduction of and trade in children.

What are the consequences?

Children who have been included will no longer be able to travel abroad on that basis with effect from 26 June 2012. From that date inclusions of children will not be accepted for border crossing at border controls. This was already the case in a number of countries such as the United States. In future, then, all children will need to have their own travel documents, irrespective of age.

Passports and other travel documents in which children have been included will otherwise remain valid in the normal way until the end of their current validity period. The holder of the document can still travel on it; whether there are still children included in it does not matter.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 444/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 May 2009 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2252/2004 on standards for security features and biometrics in passports and travel documents issued by Member States.

The measure has immediate effect, so existing inclusions will automatically become invalid on 26 June 2012. From that date the controlling authorities will always ask for the child's own passport or travel document, irrespective of whether the child is still included in your passport or travel document.

What kind of document can you apply for for your child?

If your child was eligible for inclusion in a passport, you can choose between applying for a passport for the child, a Dutch identity card or both. If your child already has a Dutch identity card as well as being included in your passport, you can also apply for a passport for him or her, if you wish. A passport will be needed if your child intends to travel to a country where the Dutch identity card is not valid.

If the child was eligible for inclusion in a refugee travel document or aliens travel document, the only document that can be applied for is a refugee travel document or aliens travel document for the child.

A child under 18 wishing to apply for a passport, a refugee travel document or an aliens travel document will require the written permission of both parents (or the person who otherwise exercises authority over the minor). Valid proof of identity of the person(s) required to grant written permission must be produced when applying. This also applies to minors under the age of 12 applying for a Dutch identity card. From that age no permission is required to apply for a Dutch identity card.

Any questions?

If you have questions you can contact any passport-issuing authority.

More information can be found on the websites of the various passport-issuing authorities, e.g. your municipality and the website www.paspoortinformatie.nl.



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