

Children

Immigration authorities in most countries, including Canada and Mexico, are becoming more vigilant about documentation for children crossing international borders. Unless the child has a valid Canadian passport, and is accompanied by both natural parents, he or she needs special documentation in addition to proof of citizenship.

If only one parent escorts the child, legally certified documentation from the absent parent must be presented in addition to a copy of any separation or divorce decree. This consent is required even if the separation or divorce documents award custody of the child to the accompanying parent. If there is only one parent named on the child's birth certificate and the child is travelling with that parent, no additional releases are required. If the child is travelling with only one parent and the other parent is deceased, the death certificate must be presented. If original documents are not available, you must obtain a notarized statement to present to authorities.

A child travelling to Mexico alone must have a notarized form — *declaración notarial* — that grants permission for a minor to travel to Mexico. Both parents must sign this form, which is

available from Mexican consulates and is valid for 180 days.

Pets

Dogs or cats can be brought into Mexico without advance approval. You will need a certificate of good health, issued within 15 days of your departure date by a licensed Canadian veterinarian, stating that the cat or dog is free of contagious diseases. If you are importing a dog, the health certificate must state that the dog has been vaccinated against rabies, hepatitis and distemper.

When bringing the pet back to Canada, you must present a valid rabies vaccination certificate, issued by a licensed Canadian or Mexican veterinarian, stating that the pet was vaccinated for rabies at least once within the preceding three years. Canada has special regulations governing the importation of more than two dogs aged less than eight months.

Taking birds or exotic pets into Mexico is not generally possible, and the pet may be confiscated on arrival. Consult the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for more information.

Firearms

Mexico maintains strict controls on the importation of firearms.