



Foreign Affairs and  
International Trade Canada

Affaires étrangères et  
Commerce international Canada

Canada

Consular Services

# Travelling with children

When travelling with children, keep this important advice in mind to ensure a safe and worry-free trip.

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CA1  
EA345  
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ENG

Department of Foreign Affairs  
Ministère des Affaires étrangères

2011

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Travel.gc.ca

**We strongly recommend that children under 18 who travel alone or with only one parent carry a consent letter proving they have permission to travel abroad.**

The child should have a letter from every person or organization with custodial rights, guardianship rights, or parental authority (in Quebec only). We advise you to have the consent letter certified, stamped, or sealed by an official with the authority to administer an oath or solemn declaration (i.e., a commissioner of oaths, notary public, lawyer, etc.) so the validity of the letter will not be questioned. See the back of this fact sheet for a sample consent letter or visit [travel.gc.ca/letter](http://travel.gc.ca/letter).

**All children need a valid Canadian passport to travel abroad.** Make sure you and/or your child also carry supporting identification, such as a birth certificate or citizenship card. Check with the destination country's embassy or consulate in Canada regarding additional entry conditions and documentation that may be required, including divorce papers, custody court orders, or a death certificate (if one parent is deceased). These documents will help prove your citizenship, residency, and custodial rights when returning to Canada.

**Keep some form of identification in your child's pocket** in case you are separated. Carry recent photographs of the child for emergency identification purposes.

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**Seek advice from a lawyer if a custody dispute might develop** while the child is abroad. Custody arrangements in Canada may not be recognized in another country. In extreme cases, you or your child may not be allowed to leave that country. Consult with the destination country's embassy or consulate in Canada before going abroad. Contact Consular Services if you have questions about custody issues.

**Some airlines will escort and supervise an unaccompanied child** from check-in through arrival. Note that airlines require a parent or guardian to stay at the airport until the flight has departed. The person greeting the child at the point of arrival must have appropriate identification and authorization. Be sure to contact the transportation company in order to observe any other policies that may apply.

**Consult with a pediatrician** on how best to protect your child's health while travelling.

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et du Commerce international  
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**CONSULAR SERVICES**

1-800-267-6788 (in Canada and the U.S.) or  
613-944-6788

TTY: 1-800-394-3472 (in Canada and the U.S.) or  
613-944-1310

travel@international.gc.ca  
travel.gc.ca/child

## Consent letter for children travelling abroad

The following sample letter is provided by Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada ([www.travel.gc.ca](http://www.travel.gc.ca)) and can be modified to meet your specific needs and situation.

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 Ministère des Affaires étrangères  
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 125 Sussex  
 Ottawa K1A 0G2

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To whom it may concern,

I / We,

am / are the lawful

of

\_\_\_\_\_ full name(s)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) / organization with:  
 • custodial rights,  
 • guardianship rights, or  
 • parental authority (in Quebec only)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ child's full name

**Information about travelling child**

Date and place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ dd/mm/yyyy \_\_\_\_\_ location  
 Number and date of issue of passport: \_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ dd/mm/yyyy  
 Issuing authority of passport: \_\_\_\_\_ country where passport was issued

**Information about accompanying person**

The aforementioned child has my / our consent to travel with

Name:

\_\_\_\_\_ full name of accompanying person

Date and place of birth:

\_\_\_\_\_ dd/mm/yyyy \_\_\_\_\_ location

Number and date of issue of passport:

\_\_\_\_\_ number \_\_\_\_\_ dd/mm/yyyy

Issuing authority of passport:

\_\_\_\_\_ country where passport was issued

**Contact information during trip**

I / We give our consent for the aforementioned child and accompanying person to visit

Location:

\_\_\_\_\_ name of foreign country

during the period of

\_\_\_\_\_ date of departure to date of return

to reside with

\_\_\_\_\_ full name of person with whom child will be residing in foreign country

at the following address:

\_\_\_\_\_ street address, city

\_\_\_\_\_ province/state, country

Telephone and fax numbers:

\_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_ fax

E-mail:

**Information about person(s) giving consent**

Any questions regarding this consent letter can be directed to the person(s) or organization giving consent at:

Name(s):

\_\_\_\_\_ full name(s) of person(s) or organization giving consent

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_ street address, city

\_\_\_\_\_ province/state, country

Telephone and fax numbers:

\_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_ fax

E-mail:

**Signature(s) of person(s) giving consent      Signature of witness**

\_\_\_\_\_ full name of witness

\_\_\_\_\_ signature(s) of person(s) giving consent

\_\_\_\_\_ signature of witness

\_\_\_\_\_ dd/mm/yyyy

\_\_\_\_\_ dd/mm/yyyy \_\_\_\_\_ location

**Signature of accompanying person      Signature of witness**

\_\_\_\_\_ full name of witness

\_\_\_\_\_ signature of accompanying person

\_\_\_\_\_ signature of witness

\_\_\_\_\_ dd/mm/yyyy

\_\_\_\_\_ dd/mm/yyyy \_\_\_\_\_ location