



Consular Services

# Travelling with children

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



[Travel.gc.ca](https://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](https://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.

**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.

## 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](mailto:travel@international.gc.ca)

[travel.gc.ca/child](https://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.

To whom it may concern,

I / We,

am / are the lawful

\_\_\_\_\_ full name(s) \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_ person(s) / organization with:

- custodial rights,
- guardianship rights, or
- parental authority (in Quebec only)

of

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone and fax numbers:

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

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ fax \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone and fax numbers:

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 \_\_\_\_\_