

Irish Passport Applications for Children

In Ireland, since 2004, all children travelling abroad must have their own passports in their own name; prior to this, children were named on a parent's passport.

Parental consent for a passport

The consent of parents/guardians is required for a passport for a child and exactly whose consent is needed will depend on whether the parents are both legal guardians.

Married parents and divorced or separated parents are legal guardians of their child and therefore both signatures will be needed for a passport application.

If the mother and father of the child are not married yet the father's name is given on the child's birth certificate then BOTH parents can sign the passport application form, even though the father is not a joint guardian.

If a child's father's name is written on the child's birth certificate then his signature is not required. It is only required if he is a legal guardian.

If the mother and father of the child are not married and the father is not a legal guardian then the mother is the sole legal guardian and then she will need to sign the Passport Application Form. She will also have to sign the Sole Guardian Affidavit Form (AFF1) in the presence of a suitable witness.

Where the child has two legal guardians, the mother and the father, then the signature of both guardians is required on the Passport Application Form (APS 1E) before the application will be processed.

Where the child has more than two guardians only two signatures are required on the Passport Form (APS 1E).

What happens if a guardian refuses to sign the Passport Application Form?

If a guardian refuses to sign the Passport Application Form the parent/guardian seeking the passport can apply directly to the local District court to have the other guardian's consent dispensed with.

If you are living in Dublin contact the Family Law Division of the District Court.

If you are living outside of Dublin you will need to contact your Local District Court.

Where can I obtain a Passport Form?

November 2017 | askonefamily | lo-call 1890 66 22 12 | Monday to Friday, 10am to 2pm

You can pick up a Passport Form from Garda stations, citizens information centres, local libraries and some post offices.

Travelling abroad with a child

When travelling abroad with a child there is always the possibility that you will be stopped and documents checked, particularly if your child has a different surname than you. For this reason it can be useful to have a document or letter from the other parent stating that they have given consent for their child to travel abroad. By having this letter with you, you can ensure that there are no misunderstandings while travelling. The letter itself could be signed and witnessed by a commissioner for oaths.

It is also advisable to check with the embassy or consulate of the country you are visiting to see if they have any specific rules when travelling alone with a child.

Can a passport be issued without the consent of another existing guardian?

It is possible for a passport to be issued without the consent of another existing guardian/s under the following circumstances;

When directed to do so by the court where the child resides

OR

When any matters regarding consent have been dealt with in accordance to the laws of the state where the child lives

When a passport is issued, following a judge's decision, who is in possession of it?

The court will decide who holds onto the passport. It may be held by the court or released to a named person under conditions that the court feels is in the best interest of the child.

How long is a passport valid for?

For young children (up to the age of 3) the passport is issued for 3 years and costs €16

For children ages 3-17 the passport is issued for 5 years and costs €26.50

These are the standard fees if you choose to apply through passport express at your post office or by registered post the fees will be higher.

What documents are needed to get a Passport?

In order to obtain a Passport you will need the following documents;

- 4 passport photos – (2 signed by the Garda)
- Completed Application Form (APS1E)
- Sole Guardian Affidavit Form if appropriate
- The child's long form birth certificate and previous passport if applicable
- Application fee

Eligibility for an Irish passport

- If either of your parents are Irish you are automatically an Irish citizen no matter where you were born.
- If you were born outside Ireland to an Irish citizen who was born outside Ireland, then you are entitled to become an Irish citizen.
- If your parent derived Irish citizenship in another manner, for example, through marriage, adoption or naturalisation, and was an Irish citizen at the time of your birth, you can become an Irish citizen.
- If the parent through whom you derive Irish citizenship was deceased at the time of your birth, but would have been an Irish citizen if alive at that time, you are also an Irish citizen. Also, you derive citizenship through an Irish parent whether or not your parents were married to each other at the time of your birth.

Claiming Irish citizenship

Before you can claim Irish citizenship, you must have your birth registered in the Foreign Births Register. If you are entitled to register, your Irish citizenship is effective from the date of registration – not from the date when you were born.

Citizenship through descent from Irish grandparents

If one of your grandparents is an Irish citizen who was born in Ireland, but neither of your parents was born in Ireland, you may become an Irish citizen. However, you will need to have your birth registered in the Foreign Births Register

Citizenship through Adoption by Irish parents

When a child who is not an Irish citizen is adopted by an Irish citizen then the adopted child shall be an Irish citizen

If my child is living outside of the Republic of Ireland but is entitled to an Irish Passport how can I get one issued for them?

It is possible for the guardian of a child to make a passport application for a child who lives outside of Ireland if they are entitled to hold one. Where a child has two guardians consent will be required from both before a passport will be issued. If a child has more than two guardians consent is only required from two of them for the passport to be issued.

What proof of citizenship is required?

- In the instance where either parent is an Irish citizen or are entitled to be an Irish citizen the passport or long form birth certificate of the parent will be required
- Where neither parent is an Irish citizen there may be differing requirements depending on the nationality of/or residence of the parent(s)

Further Information

Passport Office

<https://www.dfa.ie/passports-citizenship/>

Citizenship

<https://www.dfa.ie/passports-citizenship/citizenship/>

Courts Service

<http://www.courts.ie/>

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