CHAPTER 192

PASSPORTS

PASSPORT RULES

(SECTION 6)

[Commencement 31st July, 1965]

S.I. 140/1965
S.I. 63/1966
S.I. 1/1970
S.I. 52/1973
S.I. 72/1973
S.I. 68/1975
S.I. 74/1989
S.I. 76/2007

Short title.

1. These Rules may be cited as the Passport Rules.

Interpretation.
S.I. 52/1973.
S.I. 76/2007.

2. In these Rules —

"biometric data and features" means —

(i) digitized fingerprints;

(ii) machine-readable facial images; and

(iii) machine-readable biographical data including signatures;

"diplomatic passport" means a passport referred to in paragraph (a) of rule 4;

"official passport" means a passport referred to in paragraph (b) of rule 4;

"ordinary passport" means a passport referred to in paragraph (c) of rule 4;

"Minister" means the Minister responsible for Passports.

To whom passport applications made.
S.I. 52/1973; S.I. 74/1989.

3. All applications for passports shall be made to a Passport and Visa Officer.

Classes of passport.
S.I. 52/1973.

4. The Minister may, in his discretion, issue —

(a) a diplomatic passport to —

(i) the Governor-General;

(ii) the Prime Minister;

(iii) any other Minister;

(iv) the Head and Deputy Head of a Diplomatic Mission of the Bahamas in a foreign country;

(v) a High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner of The Bahamas;

(vi) a Consul or Consul General of The Bahamas;

(vii) such other persons as may be designated by the Minister from time to time;

(b) an official passport to —

(i) the Chief Justice;

(ii) a Parliamentary Secretary;

(iii) a Member of the House of Assembly;

(iv) a Senator;

(v) the Secretary to the Cabinet;

(vi) the Financial Secretary;

(vii) the Commissioner of Police;

(viii) the Chairman of The Bahamas Monetary Authority;

(ix) Auditor-General;

(x) the Permanent Secretary of any Department of the Government of The Bahamas;

(xi) a Vice Consul;

(xii) A First, Second or Third Secretary of a Diplomatic Mission of The Bahamas in a Foreign Country, or of a High Commission of The Bahamas;

(xiii) such other persons as may be designated by the Minister from time to time;

(c) an ordinary passport to any citizen of The Bahamas.

Forms of application. *S.I. 52/1973.*

5. (1) No ordinary passport shall be issued unless there is first completed an application and declaration made upon the appropriate form available on application from a Passport and Visa Officer.

S.I. 76/2007.

(2) A separate passport application is required in respect of each and every person.

S.I. 63/1966.

(3) Every application for a passport shall be made in the proper name of the applicant or in the name by which he is usually and commonly known, and no passport shall be issued to an applicant in any other name.

Authentication and sponsorship of application. *S.I. 1/1970; S.I. 52/1973.*

6. Each application for an ordinary passport shall be authenticated and sponsored by a marriage officer, a medical practitioner, a counsel and attorney of the Supreme Court, a public officer of or above the rank of assistant head of department, a bank officer, magistrate or justice of the peace, who has been personally acquainted with the applicant for at least two years and who is not a member of the immediate family of the applicant.

Photographs required. *S.I. 76/2007.*

7. (1) Every application for an ordinary passport shall be accompanied by three copies of a recent photograph of the applicant.

(2) A recent photograph for the purposes of this section shall be a photograph taken within a six-month period immediately preceding the application.

(3) Photographs shall —

(a) be taken full face, front view, head centered within frame, without hat or head covering and with eyes open;

(b) be taken with the entire face in focus, fine facial features discernible, subject and background accurately presented and with natural skin tones reproduced;

(c) present full head from top of hair to bottom of chin with height of head measuring one inch to $1^{3}/_{8}^{ths}$ of an inch;

(d) be taken with eye level between $1^{1}/_{8}^{ths}$ of an inch and $1^{3}/_{8}^{ths}$ of an inch from the bottom of the photograph;

(e) be two inches by two inches in size and shall not be mounted;

(f) be in colour, set against a plain white or off-white background and printed on normal thin photographic paper or stock;

(g) be of clear print with a continuous tone quality;

(h) not be retouched or otherwise enhanced or softened; and

(i) if digitally printed, be produced without discernible pixels or dot patterns.

(4) The person authenticating and sponsoring the application shall endorse the reverse side of one copy of each photograph with the words —

"I certify that this is a true likeness of the applicant Mr. (Mrs. or Miss).....",

and shall add his signature.

(5) All photographs accompanying an application for a passport shall become the property of the Government.

Documents to be produced. S.I. 76/2007.

8. An application for an ordinary passport shall be accompanied by the following documents —

(a) in the case where the applicant is a citizen of The Bahamas by virtue of Article 3(1) of the Constitution, the applicant's birth certificate or such other evidence as satisfies the Minister of the applicant's birth in the former colony of the Bahama Islands;

(b) in the case where the applicant is a citizen of The Bahamas by virtue of Article 6 of the Constitution —

(i) the applicant's birth certificate or such other evidence as satisfies the Minister of the applicant's birth in The Bahamas; and

(ii) evidence which satisfies the Minister that at the date of the applicant's birth, either of his parents was a citizen of The Bahamas;

(c) in the case where the applicant is a citizen of The Bahamas by virtue of Article 3(2) of the Constitution —

(i) the applicant's birth certificate;

(ii) the birth certificate of the applicant's father or such other evidence as satisfies the Minister that the applicant's father was born in the former Colony of the Bahama Islands; and

(iii) such evidence as satisfies the Minister that at the date of the applicant's birth, the applicant's father was a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies;

(d) in the case where the applicant is a citizen of The Bahamas by virtue of Article 8 of the Constitution —

(i) the applicant's birth certificate; and

(ii) such evidence as satisfies the Minister that at the date of the applicant's birth, the applicant's father was a citizen of The Bahamas otherwise than by virtue of Article 3(2) of the Constitution;

(e) in the case where the applicant is a citizen of The Bahamas by virtue of Article 3(3) of the Constitution —

(i) the applicant's registration document; and

(ii) a certificate of citizenship issued to the applicant under section 15 of the Bahamas Nationality Act;

(f) in the case where the applicant becomes a citizen of The Bahamas on 9th July, 1974 by virtue of Article 4 of the Constitution —

(i) the applicant's naturalisation document; and

(ii) a certificate of citizenship issued to the applicant under section 15 of the Bahamas Nationality Act;

(g) in the case where the applicant is a citizen of The Bahamas by naturalisation, the certificate of naturalisation granted to him under section 9 of the Bahamas Nationality Act;

(h) in the case where the applicant is a citizen of The Bahamas who has been certified to be such citizen under section 14 of the Bahamas Nationality Act, the certificate issued under that section;

(i) in the case where the applicant became a citizen of The Bahamas by virtue of section 4 of the Bahamas Nationality Act, the certificate of adoption referred to in that section;

(j) in the case where the applicant became a citizen of The Bahamas by registration under the provisions of Article 5, 7, 9 or 10 of the Constitution, or under the provisions of section 5 or 6 of the Bahamas Nationality Act, the applicant's registration document;

(k) evidence of the National Insurance Number of the applicant; *S.I. 76/2007.*

(l) for passports issued with biometric data and features, the fingerprints of each applicant collected at the time of submission of application; *S.I. 76/2007.*

(m) the marriage certificate of married applicants under eighteen years of age; and

(n) in the case of an application for a passport for a person under eighteen years of age, the written consent of the legal guardian, that is to say, the person for the time being entitled to legal custody of the child.

Countries for which passports available. *S.I. 52/1973.*

9. A passport shall be available and available only for travel to the countries named therein but may be endorsed for additional countries after issue on payment of a fee of

one dollar. The form of a passport so endorsed cannot exempt the holder from compliance with any immigration regulations in force in any country or from the necessity of obtaining a visa wherever the same may be required by the law of any such country.

Charges for ordinary passport.

S.I. 52/1973.
S.I. 74/1989.
S.I. 76/2007.

10. (1) The following fees shall be payable in respect of ordinary passports issued without biometric data and features —

(a) upon the issue of —

(i) a Children's Passport, fifteen dollars;

(ii) a Frequent Traveller's Passport, sixty dollars; and

(iii) a Regular Passport, thirty dollars;

(b) upon the issue of —

(i) an additional Children's Passport of restricted validity, fifteen dollars;

(ii) additional Frequent Traveller's Passport of restricted validity, sixty dollars; and

(iii) an additional Regular Passport of restricted validity, thirty dollars;

(c) upon the issue of a temporary passport to any person, ten dollars;

(d) upon the issue of a certificate of identity to any person, twenty dollars.

S.I. 76/2007.

(2) From and after the coming into force of these Rules,[2] the following fees shall be payable in respect of ordinary passports issued with biometric data and features —

(a) a Children's Passport, twenty-five dollars;

(b) a Frequent Traveller's Passport, one hundred dollars;

(c) a Regular Passport, fifty dollars;

(d) a temporary passport to any person, thirty-five dollars; and

(e) a certificate of identity to any person, twenty-five dollars.

[2] 5th December, 2007

Validity of passports.
S.I. 72/1973.
S.I. 74/1989.
S.I. 76/2007.

11. (1) An ordinary passport shall not be valid —

(a) in the case of a Children's Passport, beyond a period of five years from the date of issue;

(b) in the case of a Regular Passport, beyond a period of ten years; and

(c) in the case of a Frequent Traveller's Passport, beyond a period of ten years.

(2) After the expiration of ten years from the original date of issue, a passport shall not be capable of renewal and a new passport may be applied for.

(3) A new passport shall be applied for whenever there is no further space for the insertion of visas in a current passport.

S.I. 76/2007.

(4) The Minister may by order at any time determine a date by which passports in circulation prior to the coming into force of these Rules (5th December, 2007) shall become invalid.

Applicant to appear in person.
S.I. 52/1973.
S.I. 68/1975.
S.I. 76/2007.

12. A passport may not be issued unless the applicant therefor appears in person in the case of an applicant in the Island of New Providence, before a Passport and Visa Officer, in the case of an applicant in any other island of The Bahamas, before an Administrator having jurisdiction in that island, and, in the case of an applicant in a place outside The Bahamas, before any diplomatic agent or consular officer of The Bahamas exercising his functions in that place.