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CHAPTER 24

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

S.I. 5/2015

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (VISAS)
REGULATIONS**

(SECTION 13)

[Commencement 28th January, 2015]

- 1.** These Regulations may be cited as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Visas) Regulations. Citation.
- 2.** (1) In these Regulations — Interpretation.
 “Act” means the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Act; Ch. 24.
 “Minister” means the Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs;
 “visa” means an authenticating endorsement issued by or on behalf of the Minister and placed in a passport or travel document which has been examined by a consular officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and endorses that the holder of the passport or travel document has met the requirements and is permitted to travel to The Bahamas.
- (2) A visa does not guarantee the right of entry into The Bahamas which right is subject to the requirements of the Immigration Act.
- 3.** (1) The Minister may in accordance with these Regulations issue visas for the entry into The Bahamas of persons who are not citizens or permanent residents of The Bahamas. Issuance of visas.
- (2) The Minister may issue the categories and types of visas, for the periods of validity, as are specified in the First Schedule. First Schedule.
- (3) The Minister may authorize and designate in writing a consular officer to exercise the authority of the Minister to issue visas under these Regulations.
- 4.** A person who, not being a citizen or permanent resident of The Bahamas, wishes to visit The Bahamas must apply to the Minister for a visa where that person — Person required to have a visa.

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- Second Schedule. (a) is a citizen of a country designated in the Second Schedule; or
- (b) is a citizen of any other country and that person wishes to visit The Bahamas for educational or employment purposes.
- Application for visa.
Third Schedule. **5.** An application for a visa must be —
- (a) made in the Form set out in the Third Schedule;
- (b) submitted in completed Form to the Minister, or a consular officer, and accompanied by —
- (i) the documents and information necessary to complete the prescribed Form; and
- (ii) the applicable fee.
- Grant and refusal of application. **6.** (1) The Minister, or a consular officer acting on the Minister's behalf, may grant or refuse an application for the issuance of a visa made pursuant to regulation 5.
- (2) Where an application for issuance of a visa is refused —
- (a) the applicant shall be informed of the reason for the refusal in any case where the Visa Denial Codes listed in the Fourth Schedule apply; and
- (b) the application may not be re-submitted until the expiry of three months after the date of the refusal.
- Fourth Schedule. **7.** (1) A person aggrieved by a decision of a consular officer to refuse an application for issuance of a visa has the right to have the decision reviewed by the Minister in accordance with paragraph (2).
- (2) An application for a review by the Minister must —
- (a) be made in writing and submitted to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration via any Consular office of the Government of The Bahamas or at the Consular Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs located in Nassau;
- (b) be submitted within thirty days after the aggrieved person is given notice of the decision by the consular officer.
- (3) The Minister may, on review of a decision to refuse an application for the issue of a visa, confirm, vary, or reverse the decision.

8. The Minister may from time to time amend all or any of the Schedules to these Regulations.

Power to amend Schedules. Schedules.

9. All records relating to the decision of the Minister to grant or refuse an application for a visa are confidential and such records, or information contained in them, shall not be disclosed or provided to third parties except by order of a court of competent jurisdiction within The Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Confidentiality of records.

10. (1) An applicant for a visa shall pay the applicable fee set out in the Fifth Schedule.

Visa fees. Fifth Schedule.

(2) Visa fees shall be waived for Diplomatic passport holders.

FIRST SCHEDULE (Regulation 3)

CATEGORIES, TYPES AND VALIDITY PERIODS OF VISAS

(A) CATEGORIES OF VISAS

(1) **Tourist Visas** - issued to persons travelling to The Bahamas for the purpose of leisure.

(2) **Seaman Visas** - issued to —

(a) crew members of boats temporarily visiting The Bahamas for the purpose of trade; or

(b) employees of cruise ships that are registered vessels of The Bahamas.

(3) **Diplomatic/Official Visas** - issued to holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports.

(B) TYPES OF VISAS

(1) **Single Entry Visa**

A single entry visa is valid for one entry only within the time frame of three (3) months and is issued to persons temporarily visiting The Bahamas for pleasure.

(2) **Multiple Entry Visa**

A multiple entry visa is —

- (a) valid for multiple entries to The Bahamas for periods of three (3) months, six (6) months, one (1) year and three (3) years;
- (b) issued to an individual who is a foreign national requiring a visa to visit The Bahamas who is —
 - (i) married to a Bahamian national but not resident in The Bahamas; or
 - (ii) the spouse of a foreign national person legally employed in The Bahamas and who does not reside or intend to reside in the Bahamas.

(C) VISA VALIDITY PERIODS

- (1) Three (3) months for a single entry.
- (2) Three (3) months, six (6) months, one (1) year and three (3) years for multiple entries.

SECOND SCHEDULE (Regulation 4)

DESIGNATED COUNTRIES

1. Afghanistan
2. Albania
3. Algeria
4. Angola
5. Belarus
6. Benin
7. Bhutan
8. Bosnia
9. Burkina Faso
10. Cameroon
11. Central African Republic
12. Comoros
13. Cote d'Ivoire
14. Cuba

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15. Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC Congo)
 16. Djibouti
 17. Dominican Republic
 18. Egypt
 19. Ethiopia
 20. Gabon
 21. Ghana
 22. Guinea
 23. Guinea-Bissau
 24. Indonesia
 25. Islamic Republic of Iran
 26. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
 27. Kingdom of Hashemite Jordan
 28. Kingdom of Morocco
 29. Kingdom of Nepal
 30. Kazakhstan
 31. Kyrgyzstan
 32. Laos
 33. Libya
 34. Macau
 35. Madagascar
 36. Mauritania
 37. Micronesia
 38. Mongolia
 39. Montenegro
 40. Mozambique
 41. Myanmar
 42. Nigeria
 43. North Korea
 44. Palestine
 45. Philippines
 46. Republic of Burundi
 47. Republic of Cambodia
 48. Republic of Chad

49. Republic of Congo
50. Republic of Equatorial Guinea
51. Republic of Haiti
52. Republic of India
53. Republic of Iraq
54. Republic of Lebanon
55. Republic of Liberia
56. Republic of Niger
57. Republic of Palau
58. Republic of Senegal
59. Republic of Uzbekistan
60. Republic of Yemen
61. Rwanda
62. Saudi Arabia
63. Serbia
64. Somalia
65. State of Eritrea
66. Sudan
67. Syria
68. Taiwan
69. Tajikistan
70. Thailand
71. Timor-Leste
72. Togo
73. Tunisia
74. Turkmenistan
75. Ukraine
76. United Arab Emirates
77. Vietnam
78. Zaire

THIRD SCHEDULE (Regulation 5)

VISA APPLICATION FORM

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS**

(To be completed in BOLD CAPS in Black or Blue Ink)

(To be completed by the Applicant)

VISA TYPE				ENTRY TYPE:	
Visitor <input type="checkbox"/>	Diplomatic <input type="checkbox"/>	Official <input type="checkbox"/>	Crew <input type="checkbox"/>	Transit <input type="checkbox"/>	Single Entry <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Entry <input type="checkbox"/>
1. PERSONAL DETAILS:					
Surname		First Name		Middle Name(s)	
Nationality		Place & Country of Birth		Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY)	
National Identification Number				Sex	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
2. CONTACT DETAILS:					
Present address (include Apt. No., Street, City, State, Country)			Permanent Address (include Apt. No., Street, City, State, Country)		
Telephone (Home)	Telephone (Work)	Fax	Mobile		
Email Address					
3. EMPLOYMENT DETAILS					
Occupation		No. of Years Employed	Employer's Name, Address, and Telephone (if applicable)		
Former Occupation (if employed for less than 5 years in the present occupation)		No. of Years Employed	Employer's Name, Address, and Telephone (if applicable)		
4. FAMILY DETAILS:					
Marital Status					
Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Separated <input type="checkbox"/> Common Law <input type="checkbox"/>					
Spouse's Name (Even if divorced or separated, include maiden name)			Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY)	Do you have any children? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
List Full names of dependents			Relationship to Applicant		
Is spouse travelling with you?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Are dependents travelling with you?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Father's Full Name			Nationality:		
Mother's Full Name			Nationality:		
In Case of Emergency, Contact					
Name:			Relationship to Applicant:		
Address:			Telephone:		

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5. PASSPORT DETAILS			
Passport Number	Date Issued (DD/MM/YYYY)	Date Expiry (DD/MM/YYYY)	Place & Country of Issue
6. TRAVEL DETAILS			
Purpose of Visit			
Vacation <input type="checkbox"/>	Business <input type="checkbox"/>	Diplomatic <input type="checkbox"/>	Official/Service <input type="checkbox"/>
Sports/Athlete <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	Student <input type="checkbox"/>	Conference/Seminar <input type="checkbox"/>
Other <input type="checkbox"/>	If other family member, provide relationship: _____		
Intended Length of Stay		Date of Arrival (DD/MM/YYYY)	
Name of Person/Hotel	Address of Person/Hotel	Telephone No. of Person/Hotel	
7. FINANCIAL DETAILS:			
Who is paying for your trip to The Bahamas		How much money is available for your stay?	
8. CRIMINAL DETAILS			
Do you have any criminal conviction? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Please provide Description of Offences (if convicted)	
Offence Date (if convicted)	Place of Offence (if convicted)	Penalty (if convicted)	
Have you ever been involved in the commission, preparation, organization or support of acts of terrorism, either within or outside The Bahamas or have you ever been a member of any organization which has been involved in or advocated terrorism? If yes, please provide details.			
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	If Yes, please provide details.	
9. ADDITIONAL DETAILS			
Are any of the following persons in The Bahamas			
Relative	Residential Status		
Father <input type="checkbox"/>	Work Permit <input type="checkbox"/>	Resident <input type="checkbox"/>	Home Owner <input type="checkbox"/>
Mother <input type="checkbox"/>	Permanent Resident <input type="checkbox"/>		
Spouse <input type="checkbox"/>	Citizen <input type="checkbox"/>		
Siblings <input type="checkbox"/>			
Children <input type="checkbox"/>			
Have you ever visited The Bahamas? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Have you ever applied for a Bahamas Visa? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, when and where? What was the outcome of your application? Visa Granted <input type="checkbox"/> Visa Denied <input type="checkbox"/>	Have you ever been deported, remanded or required to leave The Bahamas? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide details:	
10. DECLARATION OF APPLICANT:			
I certify that I have read and understood all of the questions in this application and the answers I have given are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that possession of a visa does not automatically entitle one to enter The Bahamas at a port of entry. I also understand that the decision on the application is final and may not be appealed.			
Signature of person preparing form: _____		Date: _____	
Signature of Applicant: _____		Date: _____	

FOURTH SCHEDULE (Regulation 6)**VISA DENIAL CODES**

1. Insufficient economic ties to one's country
2. Passport not valid for a minimum of 6 months
3. Insufficient finances
4. Abusive behaviour towards Consular staff/clientele
5. Abusive, insulting, obscene language towards Consular staff/clientele
6. Disorderly conduct on premises
7. No/little travel history
8. Unemployed
9. Insufficient documentation
10. Violation of Consular policies (Exit forms), knowingly requesting visitors visa to obtain work permit, withholding relevant information without divulging it to the Visa officer
11. Assaulting a public officer
12. Overstaying
13. Lengthy periods of stay in The Bahamas exceeding time spent in one's country
14. Unexplained frequent visits to The Bahamas
15. Immigration stop list
16. Associates of criminals
17. Persons suspected of criminal activities
18. Deceit of a public officer
19. Submitting conflicting information
20. Submitting fraudulent documents
21. Persons with criminal records (local and international)
22. Sponsor's obvious unfamiliarity with the applicant
23. Application not supported by Bahamian spouse
24. Suspected marriage of convenience
25. Consular stop list

FIFTH SCHEDULE (Regulation 10)
VISA FEES

(1) The following fees are payable and non-refundable when applying for a visa without biometric data features —

(a) Multiple Entry Visa	110.00
3 months	110.00
6 months	110.00
1 year	110.00
3 years.....	500.00
(b) Single Entry Visa	100.00
(c) Seaman’s Visa	110.00
(d) Diplomatic/Official Visa.....	NIL

(2) The following fees are payable and non-refundable when applying for a visa with biometric data and features —

(a) Multiple Entry Visa	250.00
3 months	250.00
6 months	250.00
1 year	250.00
3 years.....	500.00
(b) Single Entry Visa	160.00
(c) Transit Visa.....	100.00
(d) Seaman’s Visa	160.00
(e) Diplomatic Visa.....	NIL