

TRAVELING WITH CHILDREN TO BOTSWANA/SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa Effective: December 11, 2018

South African Immigration Regulations requires all children under the age of 18 to have the following:

- Birth Certificate –any birth record of a child issued by the relevant authority indicating the full names, surname and the date of birth (including the name/s and surname/s of the parent/s of said child).
- If a child presents a passport which contains the details of his or her parents, a birth certificate does not need to be produced.
- If a child does not have the details of the parents in their passport, then a birth certificate will need to be produced.
- When the child is from a country where visas are required to visit South Africa, a copy of the birth certificate must be submitted with the visa application.
- When the child is travelling with only one parent, legal guardian or any other person, they may be required to produce a copy of the birth certificate in order to establish the relationship with the child.
- When the child is travelling on an unaccompanied basis, a copy of the birth certificate must be produced.

Where relevant, specific requirements still exist in the form of letters of consent, court orders, copy of death certificate, adoption order, etc. In addition, unabridged birth certificates for minors (younger than 18 years) are still required on entry to Botswana and Namibia, so we recommend erring on the side of caution and travelling with them to avoid inconvenience and disappointment.

Detailed information can be found at South Africa's office of homeland affairs:
<http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/civic-services/traveling-with-children>

Botswana & Namibia has tightened requirements Effective Oct 1st, 2016:

Effective Immediately: The announcements of the regulations put into place by these respective governments regards travelling with children in and out of South Africa and/or Botswana. Please take urgent note of the below summary in regard to **documentation required when travelling with children/minors aged 18 years and below.**

1. Where parents are travelling with a child, such parents must produce a certified unabridged birth certificate of the child reflecting the particulars of the parents of the child (in addition to child's passport)

2. ***Unabridged Birth Certificate (Birth Certificate containing the particulars of a minor and those of his or her parent or parents) or Parental Consent Affidavit.
3. In the case of one parent travelling with a child, he or she must produce a certified n unabridged birth certificate as well as a court order granting full parental responsibilities and rights of legal guardianship in respect of the child, if he/she is the parent or legal guardian of the child; or where applicable, a death certificate of the other parent registered as a parent of the child on the birth certificate.
4. A letter of consent from the absent parent, should the minor be traveling with one parent only.

Where the parents of the child are both deceased and the child is travelling with a relative or another person related to him or her or his or her parents.

1. Where a person is travelling with a child who is not his or her biological child, he or she must produce: a copy of the unabridged birth certificate of the child.
2. An affidavit from the parents or legal guardian of the child confirming that he or she has permission to travel with the child.
3. Copies of the identity documents or passports of the parents or legal guardian of the child.
4. The contact details of the parents or legal guardian of the child, Provided that the Director-General may, where the parents of the child are both deceased and the child is travelling with a relative or another person related to him or her or his or her parents, approve such a person to enter into or depart from the Republic with such a child.

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Detailed information regarding Botswana can be found at:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/botswana.html>