

1. **Child Support Arrears** – If you owe \$2,500 or more in child support, you are not eligible to receive a U.S. passport.
 - a. If you already have a passport, the IRS will revoke your passport for amounts owed over \$3,000.
 - b. Before applying for a passport, you must make arrangements in the state where the child support is owed to make the payments; if you have questions about the process or about what is owed, you should contact the nearest child support enforcement agency. The US Department of Health and Human Services must remove your name from its list of outstanding arrears and give the U.S. Department of State an updated copy of the list.
 - c. If you are notified that your passport application is denied, please contact your local child support office and they can assist you.
 - d. Federal and state law allow for other enforcement actions as well – intercepting tax refunds, seizing bank assets, and placing liens on homes or other property are all possibilities when child support is unpaid. If you have trouble making payments, talk to your local child support office right away.
 - e. For more information and possible assistance, [click here](#).

2. **Felonies and Arrest Warrants** – the rules in **the USA preclude only felons who committed international drug trafficking** from getting a passport. The Department can disqualify a passport applicant if he/she has been convicted of a misdemeanor (lesser) state or federal drug charge(s).
 - a. Even if you have no criminal convictions, you may not get a passport.
 - b. If you are currently charged with a felony or a felony arrest warrant is outstanding, your application will be denied.
 - c. Likewise, if you are currently in jail or on parole for felony drug charges, you cannot get a passport.
 - d. The State Department can also deny you a passport if a court order, probation order, or a parole order states that you are not to leave the country.
 - e. Even if you have no problem obtaining a U.S. passport, that doesn't mean the country you would like to visit will let you in. Our advice is to do your research before you book a flight. You can contact the U.S. State Department to find out if the country you'd like to visit will issue you a visa as a convicted felon. Canada, for example, is one country that won't let foreign travelers visit with a DUI on their record, even a misdemeanor DUI.

- f. Speak with a legal advisor to see if some criminal offenses can be expunged. However, while an expungement keeps employers and the general public from seeing a criminal record, the record still shows up when the individual is traveling outside the United States. It is strongly recommended to research the laws of the government of your destination before traveling.

3. **Back taxes** – If you have been certified to the Department of State by the Secretary of the Treasury as having a seriously delinquent tax debt, you cannot be issued a U.S. passport and your current U.S. passport may be revoked. If you have seriously delinquent tax debt and have already applied for a new U.S. passport, we cannot issue a new passport to you until you have resolved your tax issues with the IRS.
 - a. The IRS certifies seriously delinquent tax debt to the State Department. Seriously delinquent tax debt is an individual's unpaid, legally enforceable federal tax debt (including interest and penalties) totaling more than \$54,000 (adjusted yearly for inflation) for which a:
 - i. Notice of federal tax lien has been filed and all administrative remedies under the law have lapsed or have been exhausted, or levy has been issued.
 - b. Learn more, [here](#).

4. **Legal Custody** – Are you involved in a custody dispute over your child(ren)? If so, settle all custody matters and obtain sole custody of your child(ren) prior to leaving. Be sure to have all pertinent court documents with the appropriate signatures filed before booking any flights.
 - a. Note, to protect children in cases of abduction or custody disputes where noncustodial parents may try to remove them from the country, the Department of State requires both parents to appear in person with the child to apply for a passport. This applies to all children under the age of 16, who, along with their parents, must show proof of their identification. The Department also deny passports to those declared incompetent by a court or those who are currently in a mental institution. A legal guardian may apply for someone deemed incompetent.
 - b. If it is not possible to get consent from both parents, [fill out this form](#).

5. **Covered Sex Offender** – Under International Megan’s Law

- a. International Megan's Law prohibits the Department of State from issuing a passport to a covered sex offender without a unique identifier, and it allows for the revocation of passports previously issued to these individuals that do not contain the identifier (22 USC 212b).
- b. The identifier is a passport endorsement, currently printed inside the back cover of the passport book, which reads: “The bearer was convicted of a sex offense against a minor and is a covered sex offender pursuant to 22 United States Code Section 212b(c)(1).”
- c. If you were never issued a U.S. passport or if your passport is expired, please [apply in person](#) for a new one. You must submit a signed statement with your application that says you are a covered sex offender under International Megan’s Law.
- d. If you currently have a valid U.S. passport book without the proper endorsement and/or any valid U.S. passport card, you will need to return them with your application for a new U.S. passport. You must submit a signed statement that says you are a covered sex offender under International Megan’s Law and include the U.S. passport(s) with your application.
 - i. Please contact the DHS/ICE Angel Watch Center via email dhsintermeganslaw@ice.dhs.gov before you apply for a U.S. passport for more information on covered sex offenders and International Megan’s Law.

6. Additional Articles

- a. [Things that disqualify you from getting a passport](#)
- b. [What can keep you from getting approved for a passport?](#)
- c. [How to get a passport with a felony conviction?](#)
- d. [Can a felon get a US passport?](#)