

**Seventh Meeting of the Special Commission  
on the practical operation of the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention  
and of the 1996 Hague Child Protection Convention – October 2017**

<b>Document</b>	Preliminary Document <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Procedural Document <input type="checkbox"/> Information Document <input type="checkbox"/>	No 4 of June 2017
<b>Title</b>	Good practices towards the development of a model consent to travel form	
<b>Author</b>	Permanent Bureau	
<b>Agenda item</b>	No 21	
<b>Mandate(s)</b>	Questions 7.1 and 7.2 of the Questionnaire concerning the practical operation of the <i>Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction</i> circulated in preparation of the Seventh meeting of the Special Commission	
<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To discuss the need to develop a HCCH-model consent to travel form.</li> <li>- To identify good practices that may assist towards developing a model consent to travel form.</li> <li>- To submit for approval a non-obligatory and non-mandatory HCCH-model consent to travel form.</li> <li>- To invite the Permanent Bureau to finalise, if required, with the assistance of a Working Group, the model consent to travel form.</li> </ul>	
<b>Action to be taken</b>	For Approval <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Decision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Information <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Annexes</b>		
<b>Related documents</b>	n.a.	

## Introduction

1. In the Questionnaire concerning the practical operation of the *Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* circulated in preparation of the Seventh meeting of the Special Commission<sup>1</sup>, Contracting States to the Convention were asked whether steps were taken “to advance the development of a travel form under the auspices of the International Civil Aviation Organisation” (Question 7.1)<sup>2</sup> and whether they would “support the development of a non-mandatory model travel form under the auspices of the Hague Conference” (Question 7.2). In the light of the responses received,<sup>3</sup> the Permanent Bureau has undertaken to produce the present document.

2. This document presents to the Seventh Meeting of the Special Commission a draft model consent to travel form (see Annex 1), which could serve as a basis for discussion at the Special Commission meeting with regard to (1) the need to develop such a form and (2), if there is such interest, the content of this form. Should the Special Commission be of the view that the draft model consent to travel form requires additional work, the Permanent Bureau further proposes that the Special Commission establish a Working Group to develop further and finalise the model form. A finalised model consent to travel form would eventually be submitted for approval to the Council on General Affairs and Policy. The ultimate goal is to have a “non-binding and non-mandatory”,<sup>4</sup> HCCH-approved model consent to travel form which could be used and hopefully recognised around the world, including by governments, courts and the travel industry.<sup>5</sup> The form may need to provide for some flexibility in order to be adaptable to the specific requirements existing under the laws of the State(s) where it would be used.<sup>6</sup>

3. The proposed draft model consent to travel form takes into account the information which is usually found in consent to travel forms as they have been developed in various States. For that purpose, the Permanent Bureau drew on a sample list of consent to travel forms found, *i.a.*, on governmental websites and airline or railway companies websites and annexed to the present document (see Annex 2). The document further refers to relevant information found on these websites, in particular on the legal requirements for children travelling abroad that exist amongst States. This information is also annexed to the present document (see Annex 3).<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> “Questionnaire concerning the practical operation of the *Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction*”, drawn up by the Permanent Bureau, Prel. Doc. No 2 of January 2017 for the attention of the Seventh Meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention and of the 1996 Hague Child Protection Convention (October 2017) [hereinafter, the “2017 Questionnaire”], available on the Hague Conference website at < [www.hcch.net](http://www.hcch.net) >, under “Child Abduction Section” then “Seventh Special Commission meeting (2017)”.

<sup>2</sup> Part II of the Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention and the 1996 Hague Child Protection Convention (25-31 January 2012) agreed “that the Hague Conference will not continue its work on the model consent to travel form (Prel. Doc. No 15) and that the Permanent Bureau should inform ICAO of this decision”. See “Conclusions and Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Special Commission on the practical operation of the 1980 and 1996 Hague Conventions (Part II – January 2012)”, C&R No 92 [hereinafter, “C&R of the 2012 SC”], available on the Hague Conference website at < [www.hcch.net](http://www.hcch.net) >, under “Child Abduction Section” then “Previous Special Commission meetings” and “Sixth Special Commission meeting (Part I, June 2011; Part II, January 2012)”.

<sup>3</sup> Out of the 31 States that provided a response to Question No 7.1, one State has responded “yes” and 30 States have responded “no”. Out of the 26 States that provided a response to Question No 7.2, 17 States have responded “yes” and nine States have responded “no”. This document takes into account the responses received by the Permanent Bureau until 20 June 2017.

<sup>4</sup> See *infra*, note 22.

<sup>5</sup> The Permanent Bureau has been made aware that work on the development of an electronic consent to travel form is currently being undertaken by an IT-developer. The Permanent Bureau intends to include in the agenda of the Seventh Meeting of the SC a short presentation on this electronic consent to travel form.

<sup>6</sup> With regard, *e.g.*, to the authentication of the consent, different standards apply across States. While in some States it is simply required that the consent to travel form be witnessed in order to be valid, it is a requirement in other States that it be notarised (see *infra* for further information at paras 32 and following).

<sup>7</sup> This document further draws on information gathered previously by the Permanent Bureau, including in particular the responses received to the “Questionnaire concerning the practical operation of the *Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* (including questions on implementation of the *Hague Convention of 19 October 1996 on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children*)”, drawn up by the Permanent Bureau, Prel. Doc. No 1 of April 2006 for the attention of the Special Commission of October / November 2006 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction [hereinafter, the “2006 Questionnaire”], available on the Hague Conference website at < [www.hcch.net](http://www.hcch.net) >, under “Child Abduction Section” then “Previous Special Commission meetings” and

4. The information and identified good practices presented in this document are meant to assist States in developing or redesigning a model consent to travel form that can be used by individuals travelling with a child across borders and thus to help achieve a certain level of consistency in the development of these forms. As has already been pointed out in Preliminary Document No 15 of January 2012, the diversity of consent requirements and, in particular, forms for the giving of consent can be confusing and burdensome for families.<sup>8</sup> The development of a HCCH-approved, model consent to travel form would thus provide clarity for these individuals when entering or leaving a jurisdiction while alleviating risks associated with the diversity of forms of consent required from one State to another.

## **A – Recommended information to include in the model consent to travel form**

5. It can be observed from the various consent to travel forms developed by States or airline companies, and on which the Permanent Bureau drew to produce this document, that, albeit different to a certain extent, these forms include some standard information that is (almost) always to be found on any such form. This information can be divided as follows:

- Information about the child;
- Information about the parents and / or legal guardians;
- Information about the person accompanying the child;
- Information about the travel.

### **1. Information about the child**

6. It is important that the form provides essential information about the child's identity.

7. Beside the inclusion of information that is standardly required for the purposes of a person's identification (full name, date of birth, place of birth, age, gender), the consent to travel form should include **details of the child's travel document** (passport or ID) so as to allow the immigration officers (or any person authorised under the law of one State to carry out identity checks) to check the child's travel document against the information entered in the consent to travel form.

8. As a consequence, these particulars should be precise enough so as to ensure with a high degree of certainty that the child whose identity is ascertained is the one for whom approval to travel has been given. It is thus advised that the consent to travel form not only include the passport number, but also its place and date of issue as well as the expiration date. This information is usually standard in all the templates found in Annex 2 and on which the Permanent Bureau drew to prepare this document.

9. It may be a good practice to further include the **name of the authority which issued the travel document** of the child.<sup>9</sup> This information may prove useful for immigration officers who wish to ensure that the travel document produced is still valid or that no "stop order" has been issued to prevent the child from leaving the jurisdiction (see below for further information, at para. 29). In some States, a temporary stop order may be obtained under certain circumstances directly from the administrative authority that issued the travel document of the child.<sup>10</sup>

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"Fifth Special Commission meeting (November 2006)". This document includes also references to the "Note on the possible development of a model consent to travel form", drawn up by the Permanent Bureau, Prel. Doc. No 15 of January 2012 for the attention of the Special Commission of January 2012 on the practical operation of the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention and the 1996 Hague Child Protection Convention, available on the Hague Conference website at < [www.hcch.net](http://www.hcch.net) > under "Child Abduction Section" then "Previous Special Commission meetings" and "Sixth Special Commission meeting (Part I, June 2011; Part II, January 2012)".

<sup>8</sup> See in this context "Note on the possible development of a model consent to travel form" (*Ibid.*), para. 8.

<sup>9</sup> See, e.g., the French consent to travel form in Annex 2. It is noteworthy to mention that this consent to travel form is an official model solely meant for the purpose of unaccompanied children travelling across borders (see for further reference: *Décret n° 2016-1483 du 2 novembre 2016 relatif à l'autorisation de sortie du territoire d'un mineur non accompagné par un titulaire de l'autorité parentale*, available at the following address [www.legifrance.gouv.fr](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr) (last consulted on 23 June 2017)).

<sup>10</sup> See, e.g., in France where there exists a risk of child abduction, the parent or legal guardian of the child may, in cases of emergency, request a temporary stop order from the "Préfet" ("*opposition à la sortie du*

10. Information on the travelling child should include the following particulars:

Full name  
 Age  
 Gender  
 Date of birth  
 Place of birth  
 Passport / ID information: number, place and date of issue, expiration date, issuing authority  
 Address  
 Telephone / E-mail

11. Some models include additional information such as **information relating to the child's birth certificate** (including the birth certificate registration number or the issuing authority of the birth certificate).<sup>11</sup> In some States, it is even a requirement that a copy of the child's birth certificate be produced (see below for further information, at para. 51). In other States, it is advised that the accompanying parent carry with him / her a copy of the birth certificate (or, as the case may be, of an adoption certificate) to evidence his / her relationship to the child.<sup>12</sup> It can be assumed that, where a State's legislation requires that the consent to travel form be notarised, the notary or public authority performing the notarisation will usually require that the child's birth certificate be produced so as to ascertain that the person(s) giving consent is / are the one(s) vested with parental authority.

12. It is however worthy to mention that in some States a birth certificate of the child would not prove legal parentage of the child. Depending on the State, the person accompanying the child may thus be required to produce other documentation to evidence the status of the person giving consent in relation to the child (see below for further information at paras 51 and following).

## 2. Information about the parents and / or legal guardians

13. As for the child, standard information regarding the identity of the parents and / or legal guardians should be included in the consent to travel form.

14. Information on both parents and / or legal guardian(s) should include the following particulars:<sup>13</sup>

Full name  
 Age  
 Gender  
 Date of birth  
 Place of birth  
 Passport / ID information: number, place and date of issue, expiration date, issuing authority  
 Address  
 Telephone / E-mail

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*territoire*") so as to prevent the child from leaving the jurisdiction for a duration of 15 days (Article 2, III, 3° of the *Décret n° 2010-569 du 28 mai 2010 relatif au fichier des personnes recherchées*, available at the following address [www.legifrance.gouv.fr](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr) (last consulted on 23 June 2017)).

<sup>11</sup> See, e.g., the Canadian consent to travel form in Annex 2.

<sup>12</sup> See, e.g., the legislation of the United Kingdom in Annex 3.

<sup>13</sup> See the model consent to travel form developed by the Permanent Bureau in Annex 1. It may be worthy to mention that in their responses to the 2006 Questionnaire, several States indicated that the particulars of the persons giving the consent should further include the nature of their parental rights, i.e., specify whether these rights had been attributed by operation of law or granted by a court order (see, e.g., the responses from Australia and South Africa to Question 45 of the 2006 Questionnaire (*op. cit.*, note 7)). From the templates studied for the purposes of this document, it seems however that this information was very rarely included. Rather, some templates mention that the person giving the consent is "the lawful custodial parent or (legal) guardian(s)" (see, e.g., the U.S. and Estonian consent to travel forms in Annex 2).

15. In order to prevent any risk that entering or leaving a country could be denied, it is recommended that the consent to travel form be **signed by every person or institution holding parental responsibility** over the child.

### 3. Information about the person accompanying the child

16. The consent to travel form should further include the information necessary to ascertain the identity of the person accompanying the child (as this person may be someone other than the parent(s) and / or legal guardian(s)). Where the child is to be accompanied by different persons during his / her travel, consent to travel with the child should be given separately to each person accompanying the child.

17. As for the parent(s) / legal guardian(s), information on the person accompanying the child should include the following particulars:

Full name  
Age  
Gender  
Date of birth  
Place of birth  
Passport information: number, place and date of issue, expiration date, issuing authority  
Address  
Telephone / E-mail

### 4. Information about the travel and where the child will be staying

18. Basic information on the travel for which consent is being given should be included in the consent to travel form. This information is decisive in delimiting the scope of the consent that is given. In their responses to the 2006 Questionnaire, some States stressed the importance of clarity in the consent to travel form as to the extent of the consent so as not to give rise to arguments that a parent consented to the permanent removal or retention of the child.<sup>14</sup>

19. It is therefore strongly recommended that the form include precise information about the travel for which consent has been expressly given. Of particular importance is to include a reference to the **dates of travel** of the child so as to make clear that the consent to travel is only valid for a specific timeframe. Additionally, the form should indicate the destination, including if necessary the route taken – e.g., stopovers. As an extra caution, the form could include a statement to the effect that:

*"The document is only valid for the period stipulated."*<sup>15</sup>

20. It may be a good practice to include details of the address where the child will be staying. This information was provided in several templates.<sup>16</sup> If the child is going to stay at more than one address, the details of the other address(es) should also be filled in.<sup>17</sup>

21. Information on the child's travel should preferably include the following details:

Destination / route taken (where applicable)  
Date of departure  
Date of return  
Address where the child will be staying

22. Additionally, some consent to travel forms also provide information relating to the name of the transport company<sup>18</sup> and the flight numbers.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>14</sup> See, e.g., the response from Canada (Quebec) to Question 45 of the 2006 Questionnaire (*op. cit.*, note 7).

<sup>15</sup> See, e.g., the South African consent to travel form in Annex 2.

<sup>16</sup> See, e.g., the Canadian and South African consent to travel forms in Annex 2.

<sup>17</sup> See, e.g., the Dutch (Center IKO) consent to travel form in Annex 2.

<sup>18</sup> See, e.g., the Italian consent to travel form in Annex 2.

<sup>19</sup> See, e.g., the Dutch (Center IKO) consent to travel form in Annex 2.

### *Temporary nature of the consent*

23. In their responses to the 2006 Questionnaire, several States expressed the concern that it should be clear from the form that consent for the child to leave the jurisdiction is only granted for temporary travel and that the consent given in no way represents consent to a permanent removal of the child from the jurisdiction.<sup>20</sup>

24. Thus, it may be a good practice to highlight the **temporary nature** of the consent in the header of the consent to travel form.<sup>21</sup> This information could be included, *e.g.*, as follows in the header of the consent to travel form:

<b>TEMPORARY CONSENT TO TRAVEL FORM</b>
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25. Additionally, for the purposes of clarity, a statement may be included in the consent to travel form to the effect that:

<i>"This form does not constitute consent to permanently remove the child from the jurisdiction."</i>
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### **B – Recommended cautionary statements to include in the consent to travel form**

26. On the basis of the comments made by some States in their responses to the 2006 Questionnaire, it may also be desirable to include a certain number of cautions in the travel form so as to draw the public's attention to the nature of the form as well as to possible consequences associated with its use.

#### **1. Non-binding and non-obligatory nature of the consent to travel form**

27. Following the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Fifth meeting of the Special Commission that the form be non-binding and non-obligatory,<sup>22</sup> it may be a good practice to include a statement to that effect in the form. In its response to the 2017 Questionnaire, one State expressed concern that the possible development of a model consent to travel form would create the impression that the use of such form is mandatory.<sup>23</sup> Including in the form a statement that the use of the form is **non-binding and non-obligatory on States** could alleviate concerns that States might have in that respect.

#### **2. Referral to a legal counsel**

28. Some States in their responses to the 2006 Questionnaire cautioned that parents who are to sign the consent to travel form should be advised on the possibility of seeking legal advice so as to ensure that they understand the legal consequences that come with their signing such a form.<sup>24</sup> It may thus be a good practice to include a statement to the effect that:

<sup>20</sup> See in this context "Note on the possible development of a model consent to travel form" (*op. cit.* note 7), para. 10.

<sup>21</sup> See the model consent to travel form developed by the Permanent Bureau in Annex 1.

<sup>22</sup> See "Conclusions and Recommendations of the Fifth Meeting of the Special Commission to review the operation of the *Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* and the practical implementation of the *Hague Convention of 19 October 1996 on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children* (30 October – 9 November 2006), adopted by the Special Commission", C&R No 1.2.3., [hereinafter, "C&R of the 2006 SC"], available on the Hague Conference website at < [www.hcch.net](http://www.hcch.net) > under "Child Abduction Section", "Previous Special Commission meetings" and "Fifth Special Commission meeting (November 2006)". The "non-binding and non-obligatory" nature of the consent to travel form is to be understood in the sense that even where a State has a requirement for written consent to be produced before a child is permitted to leave / enter the jurisdiction, this State will not be obliged to adopt the Hague-approved model consent to travel form and may continue to require parents to use a different form (or no particular form). This may prove to be the case, for example, where the State has particularly unique requirements for written consent which it is not possible (or desirable) to incorporate within the model consent to travel form.

<sup>23</sup> See the response of Switzerland to Question 7.2 of the 2017 Questionnaire (*op. cit.* note 1).

<sup>24</sup> See, *e.g.*, the responses from Canada (Nova Scotia) and the United Kingdom to Question 45 of the 2006 Questionnaire (*op. cit.* note 7).

*"You may want to seek independent legal advice before signing this form to ensure you understand any possible legal consequences of your consent."*<sup>25</sup>

### 3. Effect of the form on pre-existing "stop orders"<sup>26</sup>

29. As previously stated in Preliminary Document No 15 of January 2012, it must be ensured that the form does not contradict existing court orders to prevent the removal of a child from the jurisdiction. Thus the consent to travel form could explicitly state that it does not affect existing orders, including those that restrict the travel of the child outside the jurisdiction.<sup>27</sup> Such a statement could read as follows:

*"This form is without prejudice to any order made or measure taken by the competent authorities of the State of the child's habitual residence restricting travel of the child outside the jurisdiction."*<sup>28</sup>

### 4. Interrelationship with the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention

30. In the same fashion that any form could not override a pre-existing "stop order", it could not alter the attribution or existence of any rights of custody in relation to the child.<sup>29</sup> As stated earlier, the legal effect of any form would be confined to giving consent to temporary international travel. It would not demonstrate that a parent "gave up" his or her parental responsibility over the child and that the operation of the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention is therefore precluded.

31. In particular for States where the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention is in force, it may thus be a good practice to include in the form a statement to the effect that:

*"This form is without prejudice to the operation of the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction as between Contracting States."*<sup>30</sup>

## C – Authentication of the consent

32. Depending on the State where the consent to travel form will have to be produced, there may exist additional requirements to fulfil so as to ensure that the form is authenticated. In some States, the consent to travel form will have to be witnessed whereas in other States there may be a requirement that it be notarised.<sup>31</sup> In other States, it is not required that the consent to travel form be authenticated at all.

33. Therefore, there exists a risk that a consent to travel form that is valid according to the laws of the State where it was signed (*i.e.*, the State of origin) may be regarded as invalid according to the laws of the State of destination. As a result, it may be a good practice to **raise awareness in the consent to travel form of the necessity to enquire about the requirements of the State of destination** prior to the travel so as to reduce this type of risk.

34. Some websites point to the nearest embassy or consulate of the State of destination to obtain this information.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>25</sup> See the model consent to travel form developed by the Permanent Bureau in Annex 1.

<sup>26</sup> The term "stop order", in line with the terminology adopted in the "Note on the possible development of a model consent to travel form" (*op. cit.* note 7), is used to denote a court order which prohibits the removal of the child from the jurisdiction.

<sup>27</sup> See in this context "Note on the possible development of a model consent to travel form" (*op. cit.* note 7), para. 15.

<sup>28</sup> See the model consent to travel form developed by the Permanent Bureau in Annex 1.

<sup>29</sup> See in this context "Note on the possible development of a model consent to travel form" (*op. cit.* note 7), para. 17.

<sup>30</sup> See the model consent to travel form developed by the Permanent Bureau in Annex 1.

<sup>31</sup> See in this context "Note on the possible development of a model consent to travel form" (*op. cit.* note 7), para. 13.

<sup>32</sup> See, *e.g.*, the information on the website of the Government of Canada in Annex 3.

## 1. Witness(es)

35. In their response to the 2006 Questionnaire, several States indicated that under their domestic legislation the consent to travel form should be witnessed.<sup>33</sup> It may thus be a good practice to incorporate a space for the witness(es)' signatures in the consent to travel form so as to allow the form be witnessed where this is a requirement under the laws of the State of origin and / or the State of destination.

36. Based on some of the templates provided in the Annex 2,<sup>34</sup> the inclusion of the signatures of the witness(es) could include the following particulars:

Signed before me, [NAME + ADDRESS + PROFESSION OF WITNESS]  
Day and place  
Signature

37. However, the requirements for having a document witnessed may vary from one State to another and it may be that a consent to travel form would need to comply with the more burdensome requirements of another State.<sup>35</sup> To ensure that the consent to travel form **complies with both the requirements of the State of origin and the requirements of the State of destination**, it may be a good practice to further insert a statement to the effect that:

*"You should ensure that this form is witnessed in accordance with the laws of the State where it is signed, and where travel is to take place."*

## 2. Notarisation

38. Please note that the term "notarisation" refers, for the purposes of this document, to the authentication of the consent to travel form by a public notary (or any other competent authority). In this context, it may prove useful to reference the distinction applied under Articles 3(e)(i) and (ii) of the *Hague Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance* (hereinafter the "2007 Maintenance Convention") and which pertain respectively to an agreement that has either "been formally drawn up or registered as an authentic instrument by a competent authority" or "authenticated by, or concluded, registered or filed with a competent authority".

39. While the 2007 Maintenance Convention uses it in the context of "maintenance agreements", this distinction remains relevant in the context of notarised consent to travel forms. Following this distinction and applying *mutatis mutandis* the definition used in Article 3(e)(i) of the 2007 Maintenance Convention, a "notarised" consent to travel form would be given where it has been drawn up or registered as an authentic instrument by a competent authority.

40. The notion of "authentic instrument" is explained in more details in the Explanatory Report to the 2007 Maintenance Convention: "The notion of "authentic instruments" is known in many States not only in connection with maintenance obligations. They are drawn up by an authority which is especially entrusted with this task by the State and which authenticates the signature of the parties and verifies the content of the instrument. In several States (*e.g.*, Belgium, France, Germany, Poland or Spain) this authority will be a notary public and the instrument will be produced in the form of a notarial deed."<sup>36</sup>

<sup>33</sup> See, *e.g.*, the responses from Israel, Sweden and the United Kingdom to Question 45 of the 2006 Questionnaire (*op. cit.*, note 7).

<sup>34</sup> See, *e.g.*, the Canadian and U.S. consent to travel forms in Annex 2.

<sup>35</sup> See, *e.g.*, in Australia where a statutory declaration may only be made before a person on the list of authorised witnesses under the Statutory Declarations Regulations 1993.

<sup>36</sup> A. Borrás and J. Degeling, "Explanatory Report on the Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance", available on the Hague Conference website at < [www.hcch.net](http://www.hcch.net) > under the "Child Support Section", para. 73.



41. Following this definition, some States require that the consent to travel form be authenticated by a public authority, such as a notary.<sup>37</sup> Any person travelling with a child should be aware that he / she may be required by the immigration officers to produce a notarised consent to travel form upon arrival in the country of destination.

42. While this documentation may not be required under the domestic legislation of the State of departure, it may be required in other States and failure to produce notarised consent to travel forms could result in being refused entry. It may thus be a good practice to **have the consent to travel form notarised**.<sup>38</sup>

43. So as to ensure that the consent to travel form complies with both the requirements of the State of origin and the requirements of the State of destination, it may be a good practice to insert a statement to the effect that:

*"You should ensure that this form is witnessed and / or notarised in accordance with the laws of the State where it is signed, and where travel is to take place."*

### 3. Possible next steps

44. As explained, the diversity of legal requirements across States with respect to the authentication of consent to travel forms may be cumbersome and could result in legal uncertainty for individuals. Parents / persons travelling across borders with a child should not only ensure that the consent to travel form is valid according to the laws of their country of origin, but also that it is valid according to the laws of the country of destination. It places on them the additional burden of checking the legal requirements in the country of destination.

45. Different options could be envisaged to mitigate the disaccord resulting from the different requirements of the various States. A first option could be to harmonise the authentication requirements of the different States. Under this first option, the consent to travel form could either be witnessed or notarised.

46. If the consent to travel form were simply witnessed, it would ensure some level of certainty as to the authenticity of the consent to travel form while providing individuals with a relatively simple procedure and a cost-effective solution. Some further consideration ought to be given, in particular, to the nature and / or the number of witness(es), as different States have different approaches in this respect.<sup>39</sup>

47. As an alternative, preference could be given to notarisation of the consent to travel form. This alternative could be favoured as offering the highest degree of security. While this would certainly ensure a high degree of certainty as to the authenticity of the consent to travel form, it would come with a cost for individuals; in particular, this option may prove particularly burdensome and costly for the parent / person having to regularly accompany a child abroad.

48. Another option could be to develop different model consent to travel forms meeting different authentication requirements (e.g., Form A (one witness); Form B (two witnesses); Form C (notarised<sup>40</sup>)). Information on the different authentication requirements of the various States would need to be collected and clearly provided in specialised Country Profiles, in which States would list the types of forms (e.g., A, B, and / or C, or none at all) they would accept upon exit and entry.

<sup>37</sup> See, e.g., the information provided on the website of the Ministry of Interior, Public Works and Housing of Argentina in Annex 3.

<sup>38</sup> See, e.g., the information provided on the website "U.S. passport service guide" in Annex 3.

<sup>39</sup> See above at para. 37.

<sup>40</sup> In the light of the different meanings of the term "notarised" across jurisdictions, and which may differ from the definition adopted for the purposes of the present document, consideration may need to be given to the development of different notarised model consent to travel forms.

## D – Accompanying documents

49. In addition to a signed consent to travel form and valid travel documents for himself / herself and the child, the person accompanying the child may be required to produce additional documentation to be allowed to leave the jurisdiction with the child.

### *Copy of the passport / ID of the person giving consent*

50. Most of the consent to travel forms provided on government websites require that the person accompanying the child produce a copy of an identity document (usually, passport or ID) belonging to the parent(s) and / or legal guardian(s) who consented to the child's travel outside of the jurisdiction.<sup>41</sup> This will, amongst other things, allow immigration officers to compare the signature of the person consenting to the travel of the child as it appears on the consent to travel form with the signature on the identity document. It can also be used by immigration officers to ask the child to identify the person whose picture appears on the identity document.

### *Documentation evidencing the status of the person giving consent in relation to the child*

51. In some States, it may be required to produce a copy of the birth certificate of the child in order to evidence the status of the person giving consent in relation to the child.<sup>42</sup> Other States refer in their legislation to a broader requirement of "document evidencing the relationship of parenthood to the child".<sup>43</sup>

52. Where the birth certificate does not do so, the person accompanying the child may be required in some States to produce other documentation evidencing the status of the person giving consent in relation to the child (e.g., a court order, a formalised agreement).<sup>44</sup>

53. As the requirements regarding the accompanying documentation may vary across the States, it may be a good practice **to identify in the consent to travel form the accompanying documentation** that the person travelling with the child may be required to produce when entering or leaving a country.

54. The accompanying documentation that could be included in the form could, for example, comprise the following<sup>45</sup>:

Copy of passport / ID card of the person(s) giving consent  
 Copy of passport / ID card of the child  
 Copy of birth certificate of the child  
 Other documentation evidencing the parental rights (e.g., court order...)

## Conclusion

55. The Seventh Meeting of the Special Commission may wish to recommend that the good practices gathered in this document be, partly or fully, adopted. It further may wish to adopt a recommendation to the effect that Member States as well as States Parties to the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention are encouraged to implement the model consent to travel form proposed in Annex 1 of the document. Should the Special Commission be of the view that the draft form requires additional work, it may wish to invite the Permanent Bureau to finalise, if required with the assistance of a Working Group, a model consent to travel form, including variants as to the authentication requirements.

<sup>41</sup> See, e.g., the Dutch (Center IKO) and South African consent to travel forms in Annex 2.

<sup>42</sup> See, e.g., the information provided on the website of the Department of Home Affairs of the Republic of South Africa in Annex 3.

<sup>43</sup> See, e.g., the information provided on the website of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Algeria in Annex 3.

<sup>44</sup> See, e.g., the Dutch (Center IKO) consent to travel form in Annex 2.

<sup>45</sup> See the model consent to travel form developed by the Permanent Bureau in Annex 1.

## **ANNEXES**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Annex 1</b> | <b>Model consent to travel form developed by the Permanent Bureau of the HCCH</b>                                 |
| <b>Annex 2</b> | <b>Samples of model consent to travel forms</b>   |
| <b>Annex 3</b> | <b>Sample list of websites providing information on the documentation required for children travelling abroad</b> |

**Annex 1 - Model consent to travel form developed by  
the Permanent Bureau of the HCCH**

## TEMPORARY CONSENT TO TRAVEL FORM

*You may want to seek independent legal advice before signing this form to ensure you understand any possible legal consequences of your consent.*

**I / We** the undersigned, .....[NAME(S) OF PERSON(S) GIVING CONSENT TO TRAVEL], **hereby give my / our consent** for [NAME OF PERSON ACCOMPANYING THE CHILD], to travel with:.....[NAME OF THE CHILD].

..... [NAME OF PERSON ACCOMPANYING THE CHILD] may accompany .....[NAME OF THE CHILD] to ..... **departing** [dd/mm/yy] and **returning** [dd/mm/yy].

During that period, **the child will be staying at the following address(es):**  
.....

### Authorising adults:

Parent / Legal Guardian (1)	Parent / Legal Guardian (2)
Full name:	Full name:
Gender:	Gender:
Date of birth:	Date of birth:
Place of birth:	Place of birth:
Passport number:	Passport number:
Date and place of issuance of ID / passport:	Date and place of issuance of ID / passport:
Expiration date:	Expiration date:
Address:	Address:
Telephone:	Telephone:
E-mail:	E-mail:

### Travelling persons:

Person accompanying the child	Child
Full name:	Full name:
Gender:	Gender:
Date of birth:	Date of birth:
Place of birth:	Place of birth:
Passport number:	Passport number:
Date and place of issuance of passport:	Date and place of issuance of passport:
Expiration date:	Expiration date:
Address:	Address:
Telephone:	Telephone:
E-mail:	E-mail:

### Copies of the following documents are attached

Copy of passport / ID card of the person(s) giving consent ☐  
Copy of passport / ID card of the child ☐

Copy of birth certificate of the child ☐  
Other documentation (e.g., court order...):..... ☐

### Signature(s) of parent(s) / legal Guardian(s)

..... [FULL NAME]

this [dd/mm/yy] at .....

Signature:

..... [FULL NAME]

this [dd/mm/yy] at .....

Signature:

**Signature(s) of witness(es)**

Signed before me, [NAME + ADDRESS + PROFESSION]      Signed before me, [NAME + ADDRESS + PROFESSION]

this [dd/mm/yy] at .....

this [dd/mm/yy] at .....

Signature:

Signature:

**NOTES:**

- (1) *This form does not affect rights of custody that arise by operation of law or by order of the competent authorities of the State of the child's habitual residence.*
- (2) *This form is without prejudice to any order made or measure taken by the competent authorities of the State of the child's habitual residence restricting travel of the child outside the jurisdiction.*
- (3) *You should ensure that this form is witnessed and / or notarised in accordance with the laws of the State where it is signed, and where travel is to take place.*
- (4) *This form is without prejudice to the operation of the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction as between Contracting States.*

## **Annex 2. Sample list of model consent to travel forms**

**Argentina:**  
**Website of the Ministry of Interior, Public Works and Housing**

**ANEXO IV**



**ACTA DE AUTORIZACIÓN DE SALIDA DEL PAÍS PARA MENORES DE EDAD**

-Válido para un solo viaje-

**DATOS DEL MENOR**

- Nombre/s y Apellido/s Niño/a: .....
- Nacionalidad: .....
- Tipo y Número de Documento: .....
- Domicilio: .....
- Fecha de Nacimiento: .....

**DATOS DE LOS OTORGANTES DE LA AUTORIZACIÓN**

- Nombre/s y Apellido/s del Padre / de la Madre: .....
- Nacionalidad: .....
- Tipo y Número de Documento: .....
- Domicilio: .....
- Nombre/s y Apellido/s de la Madre / del Padre: .....
- Nacionalidad: .....
- Tipo y Número de Documento: .....
- Domicilio: .....

**DATOS DE LA DOCUMENTACION PRESENTADA**

- Acredita Vínculo con: .....

Los firmantes, en ejercicio de la patria potestad sobre el menor mencionado según la documentación identificatoria y de acreditación de vínculo presentadas, detallada *ut supra*, lo autorizamos a salir del territorio de la REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA con destino a ..... (PAÍS DE DESTINO), SOLO / ACOMPAÑADO POR ..... (APELLIDOS / NOMBRES - Nº DE DOCUMENTO DEL ACOMPAÑANTE), debiendo regresar al país ..... (DURACION DE LA AUTORIZACION). (TACHAR LO QUE NO CORRESPONDA)

Firma y Aclaración del Padre / de la Madre

Firma y Aclaración de la Madre / del Padre

**AUTORIDAD INTERVINIENTE**

Certifico que la/s firma/s que antecede/n fue/ron puesta/s en mi presencia por la/s persona/s cuyos datos figuran en el presente formulario y que tuve a la vista la documentación original / autenticada (TACHAR LO QUE NO CORRESPONDA) que acredita los vínculos invocados, cuya copia se adjunta a la presente.

Hecho en ..... a los ..... días del mes de ..... de .....

Firma y sello aclaratorio del funcionario interviniente



**Canada:**  
**Website of the Government of Canada**

**Recommended Consent Letter for Children Travelling Abroad**

The following sample consent letter, provided by Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada, can be modified to meet your specific needs. For instructions and an interactive form you can use to create a customized letter, visit [travel.gc.ca/letter](http://travel.gc.ca/letter).

To whom it may concern,

I / We,

Address:

full name(s) of parent(s) / person(s) / organization giving consent

street address, city

province/state, country

Telephone and email:

telephone

email

am / are the parent(s), legal guardian(s) or other authorized person(s) or organization with custody rights, access rights or parental authority over the following child:

**Information about travelling child**

Name:

child's full name

Date and place of birth:

dd/mm/yyyy

city, province/territory

Number and date of issue of passport (if available):

number

dd/mm/yyyy

Issuing authority of passport (if available):

country where passport was issued

Birth certificate registration number

number

Issuing authority of birth certificate

province / territory where birth certificate was issued

**Information about accompanying person (leave blank if child is travelling alone)**

This child has my / our consent to travel alone ☐ or

This child has my / our consent to travel with

Name:

full name of accompanying person

Relationship to child:

mother, father, grandparent, sister, brother, relative, friend, other

Number and date of issue of passport:

number

dd/mm/yyyy

Issuing authority of passport:

country where passport was issued

**Contact information during trip**

I / We give our consent for this child to travel to:

Destination(s):

name of destination country / countries

Travel dates:

date of departure to date of return

to stay with / at (if applicable)

name of person with whom child will be staying / hotel or other accommodation

at the following address(es)

street address(es), city (cities)

province(s)/state(s), country (countries)

Telephone and email

This letter may be signed before a witness who has attained the age of majority (18 or 19, depending on the province or territory of residence) OR certified by an official who has the authority to administer an oath or solemn declaration (recommended).

**Signature(s) of person(s) giving consent**

**Signature of witness**

or **Signature of official**

signature(s) of person(s) giving consent

dd/mm/yyyy

full name of witness

signature of witness

dd/mm/yyyy

city, province/territory

Signed before me on this

day of

month

year

by

name(s) of person(s) giving consent

signature of official

name / title of official

Questions regarding information in this consent letter should be directed to the person(s) or organization giving consent.

(seal)

**Estonia:**  
**Website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

To whom it may concern (*Kõigile asjassepuutuvatele*),

I/we (*Mina/meie*), \_\_\_\_\_  
*full name (täisnimi)*

Address (*Elukoha aadress*): \_\_\_\_\_

Contacts (*Kontaktandmed*): \_\_\_\_\_  
*telephone, email (telefon, e-post)*

am / are the custodial parent(s) or guardian of the following child (*olen/oleme alljärgneva lapse hooldusõigusega vanem(ad) või eestkostja* :

Child's full name (*Lapse täisnimi*): \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of birth (*Sünniaeg ja -koht*): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Passport/ID card (*Passi/ID-kaardi number*): \_\_\_\_\_

This child has my / our consent to travel alone or to travel with (*Nimetatud lapsel on minu/meie nõusolek reisida üksi või koos alljärgneva isikuga*):

Full name of accompanying person (*Saatja täisnimi*): \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child (*Suhe lapsega*): \_\_\_\_\_  
*mother (ema), father (isa), grandparent (vanavanem), sister (õde),  
brother (vend), relative (sugulane), friend (sõber), other (muu)*

Number of Passport / ID card (*Passi / ID-kaardi number*): \_\_\_\_\_

I / We give our consent for this child to travel to (*Annan/anname nõusoleku oma lapsele reisimiseks*):

Name of the destination country / countries (*Sihtriik/-riigid*): \_\_\_\_\_

Travel dates (*Reisi kuupäevad*): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature(s) of person(s) giving consent (*Nõusoleku andva(te) isiku(te) allkiri*):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *date (kuupäev)*

**AUTORISATION DE SORTIE DU TERRITOIRE (AST)**  
**D'UN MINEUR NON ACCOMPAGNÉ PAR UN TITULAIRE DE L'AUTORITÉ PARENTALE**  
(article 371-6 du code civil; décret n° 2016-1483 du 2 novembre 2016 relatif à l'autorisation  
de sortie du territoire d'un mineur non accompagné  
par un titulaire de l'autorité parentale; arrêté du 13 décembre 2016)

**1. PERSONNE MINEURE AUTORISÉE À SORTIR DU TERRITOIRE FRANÇAIS**

Nom (figurant sur l'acte de naissance) : .....  
Prénom(s) : .....  
Né(e) le :           à (lieu de naissance) : .....  
Pays de naissance : .....

**2. TITULAIRE DE L'AUTORITÉ PARENTALE, SIGNATAIRE DE L'AUTORISATION**

Nom (figurant sur l'acte de naissance) : .....  
Nom d'usage (ex. nom d'épouse/d'époux) : .....  
Prénom(s) : .....  
Né(e) le :           à (lieu de naissance) : .....  
Pays de naissance : ..... Nationalité : .....  
Qualité au titre de laquelle la personne exerce l'autorité parentale (cocher la case) :  
☐ Père ☐ Mère ☐ Autre (préciser) : .....  
Adresse : .....  
N° (bis, ter) Type de voie Nom de la voie  
Code postal :       Commune : .....  
Pays : .....  
Téléphone (recommandé) : \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
Courriel (recommandé) : .....

**3. DURÉE DE L'AUTORISATION**

La présente autorisation est valable jusqu'au :           inclus.  
Elle ne peut excéder un an à compter de la date de sa signature.  
Exemple : une autorisation signée le 1<sup>er</sup> septembre ne peut excéder le 31 août de l'année suivante.

**4. SIGNATURE DU TITULAIRE DE L'AUTORITÉ PARENTALE**

« Je certifie sur l'honneur l'exactitude des présentes déclarations »<sup>(1)</sup> :

DATE :           Signature du titulaire de l'autorité parentale :

<sup>(1)</sup> Toute fausse déclaration est passible des peines d'emprisonnement et des amendes  
prévues aux articles 441-6 et 441-7 du Code pénal.

**5. COPIE DU DOCUMENT JUSTIFIANT L'IDENTITÉ DU SIGNATAIRE PRÉSENTÉE  
À L'APPUI DE L'AUTORISATION <sup>(1)</sup> :**

Type de document (cocher la case) : ☐ Carte nationale d'identité ☐ Passeport ☐ Autre  
(Préciser : .....)<sup>(2)</sup>

Délivré(e) le :

Par (autorité de délivrance) : .....

<sup>(1)</sup> La photocopie du document officiel justifiant de l'identité du signataire doit être lisible et comporter les nom, prénoms, date et lieu de naissance, photographie et signature du titulaire, ainsi que dates de délivrance et de validité du document, autorité de délivrance.

<sup>(2)</sup> Personne de nationalité française : carte nationale d'identité ou passeport, en cours de validité ou périmés depuis moins de 5 ans;  
Ressortissant de l'Union européenne ou d'un État partie à l'accord sur l'Espace Économique Européen (Islande, Norvège et Liechtenstein)  
ou de la Suisse : carte nationale d'identité ou passeport, délivrés par l'administration compétente de l'État dont le titulaire possède la  
nationalité, ou document de séjour délivré en France (art. L. 311-1 et s. du CESEDA), en cours de validité; Ressortissant d'un pays tiers à  
l'Union européenne : passeport délivré par l'administration compétente de l'État dont le titulaire possède la nationalité ou document de  
séjour délivré en France (art. L. 311-1 et s. du CESEDA) ou titre d'identité et de voyage pour réfugié(e) ou pour apatride, en cours de validité.

**RAPPEL :** « La présente autorisation n'a pas pour effet de faire échec aux mesures d'opposition à la sortie du territoire (OST)  
ou d'interdiction de sortie du territoire (IST). Si votre enfant fait l'objet d'une mesure d'interdiction de sortie du territoire sans  
l'autorisation des deux parents, il doit justifier de l'autorisation prévue à l'article 1180-4 du code de procédure civile. »



QUESTURA DI XXX

DICHIARAZIONE DI ACCOMPAGNAMENTO

(per i minori di anni 14 – art. 14 legge 1185/1967)

*Letter of consent to minors under age 14 / Déclaration d'accompagnement de mineurs de moins de 14 ans*

I SOTTOSCRITTI

*We undersigned / Nous soussignés*

1. Cognome  
*Surname/Nom*

Nome  
*Given Name(s)/Prénom(s)*

Luogo di nascita  
*Place of birth/Lieu de naissance*

Data di nascita  
*Date of birth/Date de naissance*

Cittadinanza  
*Citizenship/Nationalité*

2. Cognome  
*Surname/Nom*

Nome  
*Given Name(s)/Prénom(s)*

Luogo di nascita  
*Place of birth/Lieu de naissance*

Data di nascita  
*Date of birth/Date de naissance*

Cittadinanza  
*Citizenship/Nationalité*

ESERCENTI LA RESPONSABILITA' GENITORIALE/TUTORIA SU

*Parents or guardians of / Titulaires de l'autorité parentale ou de tutelle sur*

Cognome  
*Surname/Nom*

Nome  
*Given Name(s)/Prénom(s)*

Luogo di nascita  
*Place of birth/Lieu de naissance*

Data di nascita  
*Date of birth/Date de naissance*

Documento d'identità n.      Data di emissione  
*ID Document no./Document d'identité n.      Date of issue/Date de délivrance*

Ente emittente  
*Authority/Autorité*

AUTORIZZANO IL PREDETTO MINORE A VIAGGIARE ACCOMPAGNATO DA

*Hereby authorise the above mentioned minor to travel accompanied by / autorisent le mineur mentionné ci-dessus à voyager accompagné par*

1. Cognome  
*Surname/Nom*

Nome  
*Given Name(s)/Prénom(s)*

Luogo di nascita  
*Place of birth/Lieu de naissance*

Data di nascita  
*Date of birth/Date de naissance*

Cittadinanza  
*Citizenship/Nationalité*

oppure  
*or / ou*

2. Cognome  
*Surname/Nom*

Nome  
*Given Name(s)/Prénom(s)*

Luogo di nascita  
*Place of birth/Lieu de naissance*

Data di nascita  
*Date of birth/Date de naissance*

Cittadinanza

Citizenship/Nationalité

oppure  
or / ou

3. Compagnia di trasporto/Altro  
Transport Company / Other / Compagnie de transport / Autre

DESTINAZIONE  
Destination / Destination

Paesi  
Countries / Pays

dal  
from / de

al  
to / à

CHIEDONO  
Apply for / Demandent

- ☐ Apposizione della menzione dell'accompagnatore/i sul passaporto del minore.  
*The details of the accompanying persons to be stated on the minor's passport / L'inscription des accompagnateurs sur le passeport du mineur.*
- ☐ Rilascio di un'attestazione riportante i dati sopra riportati.  
*Letter of consent / La délivrance d'une attestation reprenant les données mentionnées ci-dessus.*

1. Firma \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature / Signature

2. Firma \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature / Signature

Data  
Date / Date

Visto dell'Ufficio  
Official stamp / Cachet de l'Autorité

Il presente modulo di richiesta di apposizione dell'annotazione dell'accompagnatore sul passaporto o di rilascio dell'attestazione, compilato e sottoscritto dagli esercenti la potestà genitoriale può essere presentato personalmente da uno o entrambi i genitori, oppure trasmesso dagli interessati con le modalità di cui all'art. 38 del D.P.R. 445/2000. Le relative spese di spedizione della documentazione sono a carico dei richiedenti.

**Netherlands:**  
**Website of the Ministry of Defence**  
**Authorisation form for travelling abroad with a minor**

You must complete and sign a copy of this form for each minor travelling abroad with one parent or with one or more other adults.

The form is not compulsory, but will speed up your passage through border controls.

Period of travel (DD-MM-YY)	From:	To:
-----------------------------	-------	-----

**Minor**

Surname	
Given name(s)	
Date and place of birth	
Nationality/ies	
Travel document number	
Travel document valid until (DD-MM-YY)	

**Accompanying adult(s)** I/We authorise the aforementioned minor to travel with:  
 (Delete as appropriate)

Accompanying adult	Adult 1	Adult 2
Surname		
Initial(s)		
Date and place of birth		
Nationality/ies		
Travel document number		
Travel document valid until (DD-MM-YY)		
Relation to minor		

**Authorising adult/adults/organisation:**

I/We have parental responsibility/custody/guardianship over the aforementioned minor:  
 (Delete as appropriate)

Name of organisation	Adult 1	Adult 2
Surname		
Initial(s)		
Place and date of birth		
Travel document number		
Travel document valid until (DD-MM-YY)		
Street		
Postcode and town/city		
Telephone number(s)		
Signature(s)		

### Travel information

I/We authorise the aforementioned adult/adults to travel with the aforementioned minor to:

(Delete as appropriate)

Name of family/accommodation	
Postcode and town/city	
Country	
Telephone number	
Itinerary (for example, flight number(s))	

This form has been completed truthfully.

### Signature(s) of authorising adult/adults

(Delete as appropriate)

Adult 1's signature	Adult 2's signature
Date and place:	Date and place:

### Signature(s) of accompanying adult/adults

(Delete as appropriate)

Adult 1's signature	Adult 2's signature
Date and place:	Date and place:

If you have any questions, please call the Dutch International Child Abduction Centre (Centrum IKO) on +31 (0)88 800 9000 or go to [www.kinderontvoering.org](http://www.kinderontvoering.org).

Attached:

- Copy/ies of authorising adult's/adults' passport(s) or identity card(s).

The following additional documents may be required, depending on your personal situation:

- A recently issued international extract from the Personal Records Database (BRP) relating to the minor (can be requested from the municipality).
- A recently issued extract from the parental responsibility register (can be requested from a court).
- Parenting plan.
- Court judgment(s) relating to custody and access.
- All addresses the child will be staying at (if staying at multiple addresses).

**South Africa:  
Website of the Department of Home Affairs**



**home affairs**

Department:  
Home Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Annexure C

**SUGGESTED FORMAT: PARENTAL CONSENT AFFIDAVIT  
(CONSENT FOR PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 18 TO TRAVEL TO OR FROM THE REPUBLIC)**

I/We\* hereby declare my/our consent that my/our daughter/son whose Unabridged Birth Certificate (UBC) or Equivalent document\*\*\* is attached may travel to and from South Africa:

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Identified by Passport no: \_\_\_\_\_ is travelling from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ for the period \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*\*\*  
and / or\*\* is a student / cared for at \_\_\_\_\_  
situated at (address) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. Contact number of learning institution/place of care: \_\_\_\_\_

The child is accompanied / will be received in South Africa by (delete appropriately):

Surname, Name		
Relationship		
Residential Address		
Work Address		
Contact No: Work	Mobile	Residence

*Attach copy of South African ID or if a foreign national attach passport and visa of person receiving the child in SA.*

**Mother:**

Surname, Name		
Residential Address		
Residential Address		
Work Address		
Contact No: Work	Mobile	Residence
Signature and date		

*Attach copy of mother's ID or passport.*

**Father:**

Surname, Name		
Residential Address		
Work Address		
Contact No: Work	Mobile	Residence
Signature and date		

*Attach copy of father's ID or passport.*



**Legal Guardian:**

Surname, Name		
Residential Address		
Work Address		
Contact no. Work	Mobile	Residence
Signature		
Date		

*Attach legal guardian's appointment letter or court order and ID or passport.*

Copies of the following documents are attached:

- ☐ Unabridged Birth Certificate (UBC) or Equivalent Document of child travelling
- ☐ ID or Passport and Visa of person receiving child in the Republic
- ☐ Court Order (where applicable)
- ☐ Death Certificate (of any deceased parent reflected on the UBC or Equivalent Document)
- ☐ ID or Passport of parent(s) or legalguardian(s)

Thus signed and **\*\*sworn/solemnly affirmed** before me on this ..... day of

.....20 .....

.....  
Commissioner of Oaths / Notary Public signature

First name( s): .....

Surname: .....

Capacity: .....

Place: .....

Contact Number: .....

*\*Both parents whose details appear on the UBC or Equivalent Document shall consent to the child's travel. Where only one parent's details appear, only such parent's consent is required.*

*\*\*Delete whichever is not applicable.*

*\*\*\*An Equivalent Document is any official document or letter issued by a foreign government (including a foreign embassy) or a letter issued by the Director-General of the Department of Home Affairs in lieu of an unabridged birth certificate and which serves as a confirmation of parentage of a person below the age of 18.*

*\*\*\*\*This document remains valid only for the period stipulated.*

**Spain:  
Website of the Ministry of Interior**



MINISTERIO  
DEL INTERIOR



GUARDIA CIVIL  
DIRECCIÓN GENERAL

**AUTORIZACIÓN PARA SALIDA DE MENORES AL EXTRANJERO**

<b>COMPARECENCIA</b>		*Lugar:		*Fecha:	
*Hora:		*Guardia Civil T.I.P.:		*Unidad:	
<b>PADRE/MADRE/ TUTOR 1 DEL MENOR</b>		Apellidos:		Nombre:	
D.N.I.:		Nacionalidad:		Fecha nacimiento:	
Lugar nacimiento:		Hijo/a de:		y de:	
Domicilio:		Nº:		Piso:	Letra:
Localidad y Provincia:		Teléfono:			
<b>PADRE/MADRE/ TUTOR 2 DEL MENOR</b>		Apellidos:		Nombre:	
D.N.I.:		Nacionalidad:		Fecha nacimiento:	
Lugar nacimiento:		Hijo/a de:		y de:	
Domicilio:		Nº:		Piso:	Letra:
Localidad y Provincia:		Teléfono:			
<b>DATOS DEL MENOR</b>		Apellidos:		Nombre:	
D.N.I./Pasaporte:		Nacionalidad:		Fecha nacimiento:	
Lugar nacimiento:		Hijo/a de:		y de:	
Domicilio:		Nº:		Piso:	Letra:
Localidad y provincia:		Teléfono:			
<b>DATOS DEL VIAJE</b>		País:			
Fecha de salida de España:		Fecha prevista de regreso a España:			
<b>ACOMPAÑANTES DEL MENOR</b>					
Parentesco	Nombre y apellidos		D.N.I./Pasaporte		Teléfono

**DOCUMENTACIÓN QUE PRESENTA:**

- D.N.I. / Pasaporte del compareciente/s
- D.N.I. / Pasaporte del menor
- Libro de familia

**Ambos comparecientes manifiestan** que autorizan a su hijo, cuyos datos han sido reseñados, a viajar al extranjero:

Y para que conste, ante cualquier Autoridad o sus Agentes, se extiende el presente documento en las dependencias de la Guardia Civil de \*....., haciéndole saber que esta autorización parental se circunscribe exclusivamente a las fechas de viaje señaladas.

**Firma del padre/madre/tutor 1 (obligatoria)**

**Firma del padre/madre/tutor 2 (obligatoria)**

Fdo. ....  
D.N.I. ....

Fdo. ....  
D.N.I. ....

Sello de la dependencia

\*(A rellenar por la Guardia Civil)

....., \_\_\_\_ de ..... de 20\_\_ \*

**Switzerland:**  
**Website of the Police for the Canton of Vaud**

**Modell einer Bewilligung für ein ohne Eltern reisendes Kind**  
**Modèle d'autorisation pour enfant non accompagné de ses parents**  
**Modello d'autorizzazione per bambino non accompagnato dai suoi genitori**

Ich, Unterzeichneter  
Je, soussigné  
Io, sottoscritto  
I, the undersigned  
Yo, quien suscribo

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name, Vorname / Nom, prénom / Cognome, nome / Name, surname / Apellido, nombre)

ermächtige hiermit  
autorise par la présente  
autorizzo con la presente  
hereby authorize  
autorizo por la presente

Herrn/Frau  
M./Mme  
Sig./Sigra  
Mr./Ms  
Sr/Sra

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name, Vorname / Nom, prénom / Cognome, nome / Name, surname / Apellido, nombre)

geboren am  
né(e) le  
nato/a il  
born the  
nacido/a el

in  
à  
a  
in  
en

Nationalität  
Nationalité  
Nazionalità  
Nationality  
Nacionalidad

Pass- oder Identitätskartennummer  
N° du passeport/de la carte d'identité  
N° del passaporto/della carta d'identità  
No. of passport/identity card  
N° del pasaporte/documento de identidad

wohnhaft in  
domicilié à  
domiciliato/a a  
resident in  
domiciliado en

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Strasse, Nr., Stadt, Land/ Rue, n°, ville, pays / Via, n°, località, paese / Street, no., city, country / Calle, n°, ciudad, país)

vom  
à voyager du  
a viaggiare dal  
to travel from  
a viajar a partir del

bis  
au  
al  
till  
al

in Begleitung meines Kindes  
en compagnie de mon enfant  
con il/la mio/a bambino/a  
with my child  
con mi/mia niño/a

zu reisen

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name, Vorname des Kindes / Nom, prénom de l'enfant / Cognome, nome del bambino / Name, surname of child / Apellido, nombre del niño)

geboren am  
né(e) le  
nato/a il  
born the  
nacido/a el

in  
à  
a  
in  
en

Nationalität  
Nationalité  
Nazionalità  
Nationality  
Nacionalidad

Pass- oder Identitätskartennummer  
N° du passeport/de la carte d'identité  
N° del passaporto/della carta d'identità  
No. of passport/identity card  
N° del pasaporte/documento de identidad

Ausgestellt den  
Etabli le  
Rilasciato il  
Established  
Hecho el

in  
à  
a  
at  
en

Unterschrift des Familienoberhauptes  
Signature du chef de famille  
Firma del capo famiglia  
Signature of head of family  
Firma del jefe de familia

\_\_\_\_\_

**United States of America:  
Website of the US Passport Service Guide**

To Whom It May Concern:

I/We, \_\_\_\_\_

(Full Name(s) of Custodial and/or Non-Custodial Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s))

am/are the lawful custodial parent and/or non-custodial parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of:

Child's full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Place of Issuance of U.S. Passport: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, (Child's Full Name) has my/our consent to travel with:

Full name of accompanying person: \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. or foreign passport number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Place of issuance of this passport: \_\_\_\_\_

to travel to \_\_\_\_\_ during the period of \_\_\_\_\_.

During that period, \_\_\_\_\_ (Child's Name) will be residing with

\_\_\_\_\_ at the following address:

Number/street address and apartment number: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State/Province, Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone and fax numbers (work, cell phone and residence) \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s):**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Witnesses:**

Signed before me, \_\_\_\_\_,

this \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

at \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Location)

Signed before me, \_\_\_\_\_,

this \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

at \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Location)

---

## UNACCOMPANIED MINORS TRAVELLING WITH EUROSTAR

### MINEURS NON ACCOMPAGNÉS VOYAGEANT AVEC EUROSTAR

### ALLEENREIZENDE MINDERJARIGEN MET EUROSTAR

---

Children between the ages of 12 and 15 years old (inclusive) are welcome to travel unaccompanied on Eurostar trains, as long as their parent or guardian has filled in this form. They also need to be accompanied to the departure station by a responsible adult (18 years old or over), who signs this form in the presence of a member of Eurostar staff in the station. The responsible adult will also need to stay at the station until the child's train has departed.

It's the responsibility of the parent or guardian to make sure the unaccompanied child has the necessary approvals to pass border controls.

The unaccompanied child will have to present this form during their travel when asked by Eurostar staff or the authorities. We cannot guarantee that unaccompanied children will be taken to or from the train by a member of the Eurostar team, or that they'll be supervised during their journey.

Please note, we do not accept unaccompanied minors on the Lyon-South of France or direct ski services.

Les enfants âgés de 12 à 15 ans inclus peuvent voyager non accompagnés en Eurostar, à condition que leur parent ou tuteur légal ait complété ce formulaire. Ils doivent être amenés à la gare de départ par un adulte responsable (âgé de 18 ans ou plus), qui signe ce formulaire en gare en présence d'un membre du personnel Eurostar. L'adulte responsable doit également rester en gare jusqu'au départ du train que prend l'enfant.

Il est de la responsabilité du parent ou tuteur de s'assurer que l'enfant soit muni des consentements et documents nécessaires pour passer les contrôles à la frontière.

Lors de son voyage, l'enfant voyageant non accompagné doit présenter sur demande ce formulaire au personnel Eurostar et aux autorités. Nous ne pouvons garantir que les mineurs non accompagnés soient escortés jusqu'au train ou du train jusqu'à la sortie par un membre de l'équipe Eurostar, ni qu'ils puissent être surveillés pendant leur voyage.

Ce service n'est pas disponible sur notre liaison entre Marseille, Avignon, Lyon et Londres ou Ashford, ni sur notre service ski Bourg Saint Maurice

Kinderen van 12 tot en met 15 jaar mogen zonder begeleiding reizen op de Eurostar, op voorwaarde dat hun ouder of voogd dit formulier heeft ingevuld. Ze moeten ook naar het station van vertrek worden gebracht door een verantwoordelijke persoon (minstens 18 jaar oud), die dit formulier ondertekent in het station, in aanwezigheid van een Eurostar-medewerker. Wij vragen dat deze verantwoordelijke in het station blijft tot de trein met het kind is vertrokken.

De ouder of voogd is verantwoordelijk dat het alleenreizende kind alle nodige papieren en toelatingen heeft voor de grenscontroles.

Het alleenreizende kind moet dit formulier kunnen tonen als het tijdens de reis wordt gevraagd door Eurostar of door de autoriteiten. Wij kunnen niet verzekeren dat alleenreizende kinderen worden gebracht en van de trein worden gehaald door een Eurostar-medewerker of dat er tijdens de reis toezicht is.

**1. JOURNEY DETAILS / INFORMATIONS VOYAGE / REISGEGEVENS**

Date/Datum \_\_\_\_\_ Destination/Bestemming \_\_\_\_\_  
Ticket reference/Référence de billet/ Boekingsreferentie \_\_\_\_\_ Point of sale/Point de vente/Verkooppunt \_\_\_\_\_  
Train time/Horaire de départ/Vertrektijd \_\_\_\_\_ Train number/Numéro de train/Treinnummer \_\_\_\_\_  
Coach number/Numéro de voiture/Rijtuignummer \_\_\_\_\_ Seat number/Numéro de place/Zitplaatsnummer \_\_\_\_\_

**2. DETAILS OF MINOR / RENSEIGNEMENTS CONCERNANT LE MINEUR / GEGEVENS MINDERJARIGE**

Name/Nom/Naam \_\_\_\_\_ Age/Leef tijd/Âge \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of birth/Date de naissance/Geboortedatum \_\_\_\_\_  
Address/Adresse/Adres \_\_\_\_\_  
Passport or ID card number/  
Passeport ou numéro de carte d'identité/  
Nummer Paspoort of Identiteitskaart \_\_\_\_\_ Junior traveller reference/  
Référence 'Junior Traveller'/ N/A  
Junior traveller referentie \_\_\_\_\_ NVT [ ]

**3. DETAILS OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN/PARENT OU TUTEUR LÉGAL/ GEGEVENS VAN OUDER OF VOOGD**

*I am the parent or legal guardian of the child named above. I hereby give my consent for the child named above to travel unaccompanied on Eurostar (whether on the train specified or any other train).*

*Je suis le parent ou tuteur légal de l'enfant mentionné ci-dessus. Par la présente j'autorise l'enfant mentionné ci-dessus à voyager non accompagné sur Eurostar (dans le train indiqué ci-dessus ou tout autre train).*

*Ik ben ouder of voogd van het hierboven genoemde kind. Ik geef hierbij mijn toestemming dat dit kind alleen reist met Eurostar (zowel met de trein hierboven vermeld als met andere Eurostar-treinen).*

Name/Nom/Naam \_\_\_\_\_  
Address/Adresse/Adres \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to the child/Lien avec l'enfant/ Verwantschap met kind \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone/Téléphone/Telefoonnummer \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of birth/Date de naissance/Geboortedatum \_\_\_\_\_

Passport /ID card number Passeport/  
numéro de carte d'identité Nummer  
Paspoort/Identiteitskaart \_\_\_\_\_

Signature/  
Signature/  
Handtekening \_\_\_\_\_

**4. DETAILS OF ADULT ACCOMPANYING CHILD AT DEPARTURE STATION/ COORDONNÉES DE L'ADULTE QUI ACCOMPAGNE L'ENFANT À LA GARE DE DÉPART/ GEGEVENS VAN DE VOLWASSENE DIE HET KIND BEGELEIDT BIJ VERTREK**

**As per section 3 [ ] or see below/Voir la section 3 [ ] ou ci-dessous/ Als sectie 3 [ ] of als onderstaand**

Name/Nom/Naam \_\_\_\_\_  
Address/Adresse/Adres \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to the child/Lien avec l'enfant/ Verwantschap met kind \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone/Téléphone/Telefoonnummer \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of birth/Date de naissance/Geboortedatum \_\_\_\_\_  
Passport or ID card number/  
Passeport ou numéro de carte d'identité/  
Nummer Paspoort of Identiteitskaart \_\_\_\_\_ Signature/  
Signature/  
Handtekening \_\_\_\_\_

**5. DETAILS OF ADULT PICKING UP THE CHILD AT ARRIVALS/ COORDONNÉES DE L'ADULTE QUI RÉCUPÈRE L'ENFANT À L'ARRIVÉE/ GEGEVENS VAN DE VOLWASSENE DIE HET KIND OPWACHT BIJ AANKOMST**

**As per section 3 [ ] or see below/Voir la section 3 [ ] ou ci-dessous/ Als sectie 3 [ ] of als onderstaand**

Name/Nom/Naam \_\_\_\_\_  
Address/Adresse/Adres \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to the child/Lien avec l'enfant/ Verwantschap met kind \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone/Téléphone/Telefoonnummer \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of birth/Date de naissance/Geboortedatum \_\_\_\_\_  
Passport or ID card number/  
Passeport ou numéro de carte d'identité/  
Nummer Paspoort of Identiteitskaart \_\_\_\_\_

## Website of the Airline Company "Finnair"

### LETTER OF CONSENT

To Whom It May Concern,

We, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are the lawful custodial parents of:

Child's full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth (DD/MM/YY): \_\_\_\_\_

Our above named son/daughter has our consent to travel on the below flight(s):

Flight number/date: \_\_\_\_\_

Flight number/date: \_\_\_\_\_

Accompanied by:

Full name of accompanying person: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Any questions regarding this consent letter can be directed to the undersigned at:

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signatures:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name clarification

\_\_\_\_\_

Name clarification

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Annex 3. Sample list of official websites providing information on the documentation required for children travelling abroad**



## 1. Algeria

Source: Website of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Algeria

<http://www.interieur.gov.dz/index.php/fr/mes-démarches-administratives/sortie-des-mineurs-à-l-étranger#faqnoanchor>

Sortie de l'enfant mineur (âgé moins de 19 ans) accompagné de l'un de ses deux parents (père ou mère)

Pièces justificatives devant être présentées, lors de la sortie des enfants mineurs des postes frontières :

Un passeport individuel de l'enfant, en cours de validité ;

Le cas échéant, porté sur le passeport de l'un des parents (père ou mère);

Un document justifiant le lien de parenté (livret de famille ou une copie conforme).

Toutefois, la sortie de l'enfant mineur du territoire national n'est pas autorisée, si l'un des deux parents a obtenu une décision de justice de l'une des instances judiciaires algériennes compétentes, interdisant sa sortie à l'étranger.

Le Ministère Public notifie la décision de justice portant interdiction de sortie de l'enfant mineur du territoire national aux services de police judiciaire relevant de son ressort territorial, qui prennent sans délai, les mesures nécessaires pour interdire sa sortie à l'étranger.

## 2. Argentina

Source: Website of the Ministry of Interior, Public Works and Housing of Argentina

[http://www.migraciones.gov.ar/site\\_docs/?arg\\_menores](http://www.migraciones.gov.ar/site_docs/?arg_menores)

*(Translation provided by the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC))*

### PROCEDURE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY WITH UNDERAGE CHILDREN

- If the child is traveling with both parents it will suffice that they prove their relationship by means of Civil Family Record Book, a Birth Certificate or Record (their emission date is not important) or the minor's National Identity Document, where the parents' parental information appears.
- If the child travels with only one of the parents, besides proving the parental relationship by means of one of the above-mentioned documents, the absent parent's authorization must be provided as well.
- If the child travels alone, they must provide an authorization signed by both parents along with some document that proves their parental relationship (Civil Family Record Book, a Birth Certificate or Record or a National Identity Document where the parent's parental information appears).
- If the minor's parents are underage as well, they will need authorization from both parents and permission from one of the grandparents.

Observations: all the submitted documentation must be originals or photocopies accordingly legalized and certified.

**AUTHORIZING MINORS:**

Authorizations may be issued by: notary publics, Argentine consuls abroad, competent judges, authorities of the Registry Office, foreign consuls in Argentina and peace judges.

One-time valid authorization: Migrations counts with an urgency service for issuing authorizations valid for only one trip and that must be utilized within 30 days of being issued. They can be petitioned in every delegation, migration office, border crossing through which one is trying to leave, in the Ezeiza Airport, Jorge Newbery Airport or in the port of Buenos Aires.

**3. Australia**

Source: Website of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia

<http://smartraveller.gov.au/guide/Pages/travelling-with-children.aspx>

**Children travelling alone, with guardians or with one parent**

Children travelling alone, with a guardian or with one or both parents are able to depart Australia just with their passport and the appropriate visa for their destination. No additional documentation is required.

However, many foreign countries require additional specific documentation to be carried by children travelling alone, with a guardian or with one parent. Check the entry requirements for children before travelling by contacting the embassy, high commission or consulate of the country you plan to visit.

In addition to a valid passport and the appropriate entry visa, the sorts of documents required for a child to enter, travel in or depart another country may include:

- documentary evidence or a letter that proves the child has the permission of an absent lawful parent or guardian to travel
- a copy of any separation, divorce or custody decree that proves that you have custody of the child
- a court order granting you guardianship of the child
- adoption papers if the child is adopted
- a certified copy of the child's birth certificate, particularly if only one parent's name appears on the birth certificate and the child is travelling with the other parent.

Most airlines have rules regarding unaccompanied minors. Children under the age of 15 who are travelling alone are generally regarded as unaccompanied minors requiring parents or guardians to fill out a permission form for the child's travel. For further information, including on in-flight protocols for unaccompanied minors, contact the airline you're planning to fly on or visit their website.

#### 4. Belgium

Source: Website of the Federal Public Service of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of Belgium

[https://diplomatie.belgium.be/fr/Services/voyager\\_a\\_letranger/informations\\_supplementaires/voyager\\_avec\\_des\\_mineurs](https://diplomatie.belgium.be/fr/Services/voyager_a_letranger/informations_supplementaires/voyager_avec_des_mineurs)

Votre enfant voyage sans vous. A-t-il besoin d'une autorisation parentale?

Il n'existe pas de formulaires ni de procédures belges ou internationales qui fixent les règles en matière d'autorisation parentale pour le voyage de mineurs.

Nous vous recommandons toutefois de prévoir une autorisation écrite si votre enfant voyage seul ou en compagnie d'autres personnes que vous, ses parents.

Si votre enfant ne voyage qu'avec l'un de ses parents, vous avez la liberté de faire attester par écrit l'accord de l'autre parent, de faire légaliser la signature par votre commune et d'emporter cet accord écrit en voyage. Si l'enfant et le parent n'ont pas le même nom de famille, une copie de l'acte de naissance pourra prouver le lien de filiation.

Pour éviter toute mauvaise surprise, renseignez-vous quant aux documents supplémentaires exigés pour les enfants qui voyagent seuls ou avec un seul de leurs parents, auprès de l'ambassade ou du consulat de votre pays de destination ainsi qu'auprès de votre compagnie aérienne.

#### 5. Canada

Source: Website of the Government of Canada

<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/children/consent-letter>

##### **Recommended consent letter for children travelling abroad**

We strongly recommend that Canadian children carry a consent letter if they are travelling abroad alone, with only one parent/guardian, with friends or relatives or with a group. For the purposes of this consent letter, a Canadian child is defined as anyone who is under the age of majority (18 or 19, depending on the province or territory of residence).

A consent letter is not a legal requirement in Canada, but it can simplify travel for Canadian children, as it may be requested by immigration authorities when entering or leaving a foreign country or by Canadian officials when re-entering Canada. The letter demonstrates that Canadian children have permission to travel abroad from parents or guardians who are not accompanying them.

We recommend that you talk to a lawyer about the legal issues that apply to you and your children's unique situation, particularly if your parenting arrangement has special terms governing international travel. Carrying a consent letter does not guarantee that children will be allowed to enter or leave a country, as every country has its own entry and exit requirements.

**For additional information about entry and exit requirements for Canadian children travelling alone, with only one parent or with another accompanying person, see our Travel Advice and Advisories or contact the nearest embassy or consulate of the destination country.**

We recommend that the letter be signed by every non-accompanying person or organization with the legal right to make major decisions for the child, including anyone with:

- custody rights,
- guardianship rights, or
- parental authority (in Quebec only)

We also recommend that the letter be signed by any non-accompanying parent who has access to the child.

Consult [justice.gc.ca](http://justice.gc.ca) if you have questions about parenting terminology.

Before writing a consent letter, read the instructions on this page and the [Consent Letter FAQ](#)

We encourage you to use our interactive form to write a consent letter that fits your specific situation. You can save information entered in this form. However, this data is not collected or stored by Global Affairs Canada. Click on the following link to create a personalized consent letter:

[http://travel.gc.ca/docs/child/consent-letter\\_lettre-consentement-eng.pdf](http://travel.gc.ca/docs/child/consent-letter_lettre-consentement-eng.pdf)

## 6. France

Source: Website of the French Administration

<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/actualites/A11090>

L'autorisation de sortie du territoire (AST) d'un mineur non accompagné par un titulaire de l'autorité parentale est rétablie à partir du 15 janvier 2017. Ce nouveau dispositif est applicable à tous les mineurs résidant habituellement en France. Il s'applique également à tous les voyages, individuels ou collectifs (voyages scolaires, séjours de vacances, séjours linguistiques...), dès lors que le mineur quitte le territoire français sans un titulaire de l'autorité parentale.

L'autorisation de sortie du territoire donnée par un titulaire de l'autorité parentale est rédigée au moyen d'un [formulaire](#) qui précise les mentions suivantes :

- les nom, prénoms, date et lieu de naissance de l'enfant mineur autorisé à quitter le territoire ;
- les nom, prénoms, date et lieu de naissance du titulaire de l'autorité parentale signataire de l'autorisation, la qualité au titre de laquelle il exerce cette autorité, son domicile, sa signature ainsi que, le cas échéant, ses coordonnées téléphoniques et son adresse électronique ;
- la durée de l'autorisation, qui ne peut pas excéder 1 an à partir de la date de signature.

Aucune démarche en mairie ou en préfecture n'est nécessaire pour l'obtention de ce document.

Une fois complété et signé, le formulaire doit être accompagné de la photocopie lisible d'un document officiel justifiant de l'identité du signataire et comportant les éléments suivants :

- ses nom et prénoms ;
- ses date et lieu de naissance ;

- sa photographie ;
- sa signature ;
- les dates de délivrance et de validité du document ainsi que l'autorité de délivrance.

Ce justificatif d'identité peut être :

- pour les titulaires de l'autorité parentale de nationalité française, la carte nationale d'identité ou le passeport ;
- pour les titulaires de l'autorité parentale, citoyens européens, suisses ou d'un État partie à l'accord sur l'Espace économique européen, la carte nationale d'identité, le passeport ou un titre autorisant le séjour en France ;
- pour les titulaires de l'autorité parentale non européens, le passeport, un titre autorisant le séjour en France ou un titre d'identité et de voyage pour réfugié(e) ou apatride.

Ces documents doivent être en cours de validité (sauf la carte nationale d'identité et le passeport français, qui peuvent être présentés en cours de validité ou périmés depuis moins de 5 ans).

**Attention :**

L'AST ne dispense pas le mineur de l'obligation d'être en possession des autres documents de voyage nécessaires, le passeport seul ne valant plus autorisation de quitter le territoire français.

**À noter :**

Il existe également d'autres mesures permettant de s'opposer à un éventuel départ non autorisé d'un mineur à l'étranger avec [l'opposition à la sortie du territoire \(OST\)](#) et [l'interdiction de sortie du territoire \(IST\)](#) .

[https://www.formulaires.modernisation.gouv.fr/gf/cerfa\\_15646.do](https://www.formulaires.modernisation.gouv.fr/gf/cerfa_15646.do)

## 7. Italy

Source: Website of the European Union

[http://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/travel/entry-exit/eu-citizen/italy/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/travel/entry-exit/eu-citizen/italy/index_en.html)

Italian minors can travel within and outside the EU with a valid individual travel document : identity card or passport (for non-EU countries).

Until they reach 14 years old, Italian minors can leave the country provided that:

- they are accompanied by at least one parent or guardian;
- or by up to a maximum of two accompanying persons, designated by the parents or guardians in a declaration [\[it\]](#) (dichiarazione di accompagnamento) to the police (questura), who will be indicated on the minor's passport or a separate document to be shown at the border.

The same documents needed to travel from Italy are required to travel back.

Minors with EU citizenship must have a valid passport or identity card. If they travel:

- on their own or:
- with adults who are not their legal guardian(s); or

- with only one parent

they may need an extra (official) document signed by their parents, second parent or legal guardian(s) authorising them to travel. This document may vary from country to country and the traveller must therefore ask for information from the authorities in their own country before travelling.

An EU minor wishing to travel from Italy needs the same documents required to enter the country.

## 8. Japan

Source: Website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Brochure - Advice to parents travelling abroad with children:  
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/000143588.pdf>

Important points to be aware when you enter / depart the countries with children.

- A consent letter for travel from the other parent is required in some countries when you enter/ depart the country. A permission from the court to leave the country with your children is required in some countries before leaving.
- A consent letter is not required when leaving / entering / departing Japan.

## 9. South Africa

Source: Website of the Department of Home Affairs of the Republic of South Africa

<http://www.home-affairs.gov.za/index.php/statements-speeches/621-advisory-new-requirements-for-children-travelling-through-south-african-ports-of-entry-effective-1-june-2015>

The new requirements for children travelling to or from the Republic of South Africa take effect on 1 June 2015. The requirements are aimed at establishing the principle that all minors require the consent of their parents when traveling into or out of the Republic.

(...)

### 4. DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR TRAVEL THROUGH A PORT OF ENTRY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

4.1 Where both parents are travelling accompanied by one or more of their children, such children have to produce:

Valid passports and an UBC or Equivalent Document for each child travelling.

4.2. Where only one parent is travelling with a child, (or children), each child has to produce:

A valid passport, an UBC or Equivalent Document for each travelling child and the Parental Consent Affidavit from the non-travelling parent whose details are recorded on the UBC or Equivalent Document.

4.3. An unaccompanied minor has to produce:

A valid passport; an UBC or Equivalent Document; Parental Consent Affidavit; letter from the person who is to receive the minor in the Republic containing such person's residential and work address and full contact details in the Republic, a copy of the identity document

or valid passport and visa or permanent residence permit of the person who is to receive the minor in the Republic.

4.4. A person who is travelling with a child who is not his or her biological child, such child must produce:

A valid passport, an UBC or Equivalent Document and Parental Consent Affidavit.

4.5. A child in alternative care shall produce:

A valid passport and a letter from the Provincial Head of the Department of Social Development where the child resides authorising his or her departure from the Republic as contemplated in section 169 of the Children's Act (Act No. 38 of 2005).

4.6. Explanatory Notes:

One of the following documents may be presented in the absence of a Parental Consent Affidavit referred to above:

A court order granting full parental responsibilities and rights or full legal guardianship of the child exclusively to the travelling parent ;

A court order granted in terms of section 18(5) of the Children's Act, 2015, (Act No. 38 of 2005) which is a court order granting permission for the child to travel in the event that there is a dispute or no consent forthcoming from the parent/s of a child; or

a death certificate of the deceased parent.

Where only one parent's particulars appear on the UBC or equivalent document, no parental consent affidavit is required when that parent travels with the child.

In the case of divorce, where custody of a child/children is shared, parental consent by both parents is required.

Where a Parental Consent Affidavit is presented, also required are full contact details and copies of the identity documents or passports of the parents or legal guardian of the child.

The consent of parents recorded as such on the Unabridged Birth Certificate or Equivalent Document shall be required regardless of the marital status of the parents of the child.

## 10. Spain

Source: Website of the European Union

[http://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/travel/entry-exit/eu-citizen/spain/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/travel/entry-exit/eu-citizen/spain/index_en.htm)

Children require a valid travel document to leave Spain. In addition, if the children are travelling with an ID card rather than a passport, they must have written permission, signed either by both parents or the parent/person who has custody, and certified in any police station, civil guard station, court, notary or city hall upon presentation of the family book or birth certificates.

You can find an example of this form on the Guardia Civil  website.

Minors from an EU country entering Spain with only an ID card (and not a passport) also require written parental permission.

## 11. United Kingdom

Source: Website of all government departments of the United Kingdom

<https://www.gov.uk/permission-take-child-abroad>

### Get permission to take a child abroad

You must get the permission of everyone with parental responsibility for a child or from a court before taking the child abroad.

Taking a child abroad without permission is child abduction.

You automatically have parental responsibility if you're the child's mother, but you still need the permission of anyone else with parental responsibility before you take the child abroad.

You can take a child abroad for 28 days without getting permission if a child arrangement order says the child must live with you, unless a court order says you can't.

Get permission from someone with parental responsibility.

A letter from the person with parental responsibility for the child is usually enough to show you've got permission to take them abroad.

You might be asked for the letter at a UK or foreign border, or if there's a dispute about taking a child abroad. The letter should include the other person's contact details and details about the trip.

It also helps if you've:

- evidence of your relationship with the child, eg a birth or adoption certificate
- a divorce or marriage certificate, if you are a single parent but your family name is different from the child's

Get permission from a court

You'll need to apply to a court for permission to take a child abroad if you haven't got permission from the other people with parental responsibility.

You must give details of the trip, eg the date of departure, when and how you're returning, and contact details of people with parental responsibility staying in the UK.

You must give more information if you're taking the child abroad for a longer trip, eg what education the child will get while they're abroad.

Find a solicitor to get legal advice about permission to take a child abroad.



Check the age limit in the country you're travelling to

You need to contact the embassy or consular office of the country you are travelling to for information about the age limit up to which a person is considered a child.

## 12. United States of America

Source: Website of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

[https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/268/~/%7Bchildren---child-traveling-with-one-parent-or-someone-who-is-not-a-parent-or](https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/268/~/%7Bchildren---child-traveling-with-one-parent-or-someone-who-is-not-a-parent-or)

*Children - Child traveling with one parent or someone who is not a parent or legal guardian or a group*

If a child (under the age of 18) is traveling with only one parent or someone who is not a parent or legal guardian, what paperwork should the adult have to indicate permission or legal authority to have that child in their care?

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) strongly recommends that unless the child is accompanied by both parents, the adult have a note from the child's other parent (or, in the case of a child traveling with grandparents, uncles or aunts, sisters or brothers, friends, or in groups\*, a note signed by both parents) stating "I acknowledge that my wife/husband/etc. is traveling out of the country with my son/daughter/group. He/She/They has/have my permission." See our Q&A parental consent.

U.S. citizen children under the age of 19 arriving by land or sea from Canada or Mexico and traveling with a school group, religious group, social or cultural organization or sports team, may present an original or copy of their birth certificate, a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, or a Naturalization Certificate.

The group should have a letter on organizational letterhead with:

- The names of the children on the trip and their primary address, phone number, date and place of birth, and name of at least one parent or legal guardian for each child.
- The name of the group and supervising adult(s) such as: School groups, teen tours, vacation groups.
- A written and signed statement of the supervising adult certifying that he or she has parental or legal guardian consent for each child. CBP also suggest that this note be notarized, to easily verify the validity of the parental authorization.
- For frequent border crossers, the letter should not exceed one year. It is recommended to have the letter in English.

While CBP may not ask to see this documentation, if we do ask, and you do not have it, you may be detained until the circumstances of the child traveling without both parents can be fully assessed. If there is no second parent with legal claims to the child (deceased, sole custody, etc.) any other relevant paperwork, such as a court decision, birth certificate

naming only one parent, death certificate, etc., would be useful.

Adults traveling with children should also be aware that, while the U.S. does not require this documentation, other countries may have a requirement and failure to produce notarized permission letters and/or birth certificates could result in travelers being refused entry (Canada has very strict requirements in this regard).

Additional information on children traveling alone, can be found on our website at [Answer ID 449](#).

Source: Website « U.S. passport service guide »

<http://www.us-passport-service-guide.com/minor-travel-consent-form.html>

The Minor Travel Consent Form has become increasingly necessary because of the rise in instances of child abduction in custody cases, and a growing number of children who are the victims of trafficking.

An immigration officer, airline, or travel company may ask for a letter of consent if the child is traveling internationally with only one parent or with another adult, such as a relative, friend, teacher, etc.

The sample travel consent form below is a guide only. You are also encouraged to have the consent form notarized. Parents who share custody of their children should carry copies of the legal custody documents.