



Friday, June 8 2007

U.S. PASSPORT RULES WILL BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30, 2007 FOR U.S. CITIZENS TRAVELING TO CANADA, MEXICO, THE CARIBBEAN AND BERMUDA;

Travelers Must Present Photo I.D. and Proof that Their Passport Application is Pending

Since the implementation of passport requirements for Western Hemisphere travel earlier this year, U.S. Passport offices have been inundated with tens of thousands of passport applications, and record numbers of passports are being produced and issued. The demand has been so great that backlogs have risen to three months for passport issuance in many cases. Due to the extensive backlogs, the U.S. Departments of State and Homeland Security have joined in the temporary suspension of the passport requirement for U.S. citizens traveling to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, or Bermuda.

Although U.S. Citizens traveling to these Western Hemisphere destinations will not be required to present a passport this summer, they must present a government-issued photo identification and proof that their Passport Applications have been filed. Applicants may request proof of application at <http://travel.state.gov>.

Applicants are advised that this suspension of a passport requirement for departure from the U.S. to the named destinations, or for return to the U.S. from the named destinations, does not impact the entry requirements for other countries. If one of the affected destinations requires a valid passport for entry, the suspension of the U.S. requirement does not impact that foreign country's own requirement.

Additionally, the suspension of the passport requirement for departure and readmission of U.S. citizens traveling to the affected destinations does not impact the requirements that apply to foreign nationals departing and reentering the United States.

This suspension is temporary and will end on September 30, 2007. Travelers taking advantage of this limited-time-only accommodation must return to the United States prior to October 1, 2007 or present a valid U.S. passport in accordance with the U.S. passport requirement.

As always, Tindall & Foster, P.C. will monitor changes in immigration-related law and procedure and will provide updates via future Email Bulletins or via the Tindall & Foster web site at www.tindallfoster.com.