
Travel Consents

If you are planning to travel outside of Canada with minor children, then you should have properly prepared travel consent.

Different countries have different requirements. The government of Canada maintains a website which provides updated information concerning who, in Canada, is the representative of the country to which you may be travelling. You may wish to contact that representative to enquire as to what particular requirements their country expects.

See: http://www.voyage.gc.ca/preparation_information/consent-letter_lettre-consentement-eng.asp

The Canadian government also publishes a sample travel consent letter which only requires a witness. However, most foreign officials would prefer to see the consent letter certified, stamped or sealed by an official who has the authority to administer an oath or solemn declaration (i.e., a commissioner for oaths, notary public, lawyer, etc.). It is well known and recognized that a document executed by a lawyer inherently means that the lawyer has certified the identity of the individual who signed the consent. These consents are generally required in foreign jurisdictions for the purposes of deterring child abduction and the more official the document is, the greater the chance that travel problems will be avoided.

There are numerous different scenarios for travel with minors, some of which include:

1. non-parent(s) travelling with children (eg. grandparents, school);
2. one parent travelling with children and the travelling parent and consenting spouse are not separated;
3. custodial parent (by separation agreement or court order) travelling with children and the other spouse consents;
4. non-custodial parent travelling with children and the custodial spouse consents; and
5. custodial parent travelling with children and the non-custodial parent is not cooperating but a court order exists dispensing with that person's travel consent.

We charge a flat fee to prepare and notarize any of the above travel consents and we offer quick service. Please call us for a quote or if you have any questions.