

NOTICE ON PASSPORT APPLICATIONS

PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL IN CHICAGO NOW ISSUES ePASSPORT

The Philippine Consulate General in Chicago would like to inform Filipinos in the Midwest that they can now obtain ePassports.

The ePassport utilizes the latest technology in travel documents and embeds an integrated chip which stores all information of the bearer in accordance with specifications of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

All Filipino nationals applying for passport at the Consulate General in Chicago will no longer need to submit photographs, as their photos, fingerprints and signatures will be captured on-site. Personal appearance will be required for all applicants, without exceptions.

The new ePassport costs US\$60.00 and is valid for five (5) years. The turn around time for a passport to be released to the applicant takes five (5) to six (6) weeks from the time the application is processed.

What are the advantages of the ePassport?

The ePassport is highly secure. It prevents passport reproduction and tampering. It protects the individual's identity with the automated Fingerprint Verification System (AFIS) that guards against multiple passport issuances to the same person.

The ePassport facilitates fast clearance of travelers at immigration counters, use of automated border clearance for "E-gates", automated issuance of boarding passes, and faster travel arrangements with airlines. For most travelers, these conveniences translate into 1-2 hour saved for each leg of travel.

Why do we have to use ePassports now?

The current Machine Readable Passport (MRP) has the minimum standards of the Civil Aviation International Organization (ICAO) in travel documents while the ePassport is the world standard in travel documents. As member of the ICAO, the Philippines has an international obligation to enhance the security and integrity of its travel documents.

Why is the ePassport more expensive than the current passport?

The added technological features of the ePassport are factored into the production cost. Comparative prices of ePassports from different countries, however, show that the cost of the ePassport is among the lowest in the world. Further, the applicant no longer spends time and money to secure a photographs.

I have a previously issued passport. Can I use it for travel as long as it is valid?

Yes. Previously issued passports (MRP and non-MRP) are valid until the expiration date. Please make sure that your passport is valid at least six months before intended date of travel to avoid any inconvenience.

What are the requirements to renew my passport?

Personal appearance is required for all applicants at the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago to enable the electronic capture of photos, fingerprints and signatures.

The requirements for the renewal of the ePassports are the following:

1. Latest issued Philippine passport
2. Accomplished ePassport application form
3. Photocopy of the data page (pages 1 & 2)
4. Photocopy of the alien registration card (green/pink card), for US permanent residents of U.S. visa.
5. For brown passport holders, photocopy of any document with complete middle name, such as birth certificate or baptismal certificate.

Additional requirements for female applicants such as change of last name :

For female applicants married in the Philippines, photocopy of marriage contract duly authenticated by the Philippine National Statistics Office (NSO).

For female applicants married abroad, photocopy of the Report of Marriage processed by the Embassy or Consulate which has jurisdiction over the place where the marriage took place.

For further inquiries on the ePassport, please contact Consul Roberto T. Bernardo, Mr. Antonio M. Allam, Jr. or Ms. Rosenia Centeno at 312-332-6458 or visit the Consulate's website at www.chicagopcg.com.