

Delays in Obtaining U.S. Passports

New Regulations Cause Delay in Obtaining U.S. Passports

****UPDATE: U.S. Citizens with Pending Passport Applications Allowed Temporary Travel Flexibility within Western Hemisphere**

Questions and Answers regarding the Temporary Travel Flexibility

Due to new regulations imposed by the U.S. Departments of Homeland Security and State, many Kansans are experiencing delays with the processing of U.S. passport applications. Beginning earlier this year, the new regulations require all U.S. citizens to present a valid U.S. passport in order to travel by air to any part of the Western Hemisphere. Though passports were not required in the past, Americans flying to Canada or Mexico now need a valid U.S. passport.

Because of the new regulations, the processing time for passport applications is now taking approximately 13 weeks. I have contacted the State Department to express my concern with the delays as many Kansans' travel plans are being held up and Kansans are experiencing difficulties with the passport toll-free hotline. If you or your family has plans to travel outside the country, I encourage you to apply for your passports at least 13 weeks in advance. If you have any questions with the application process or are having problems obtaining information about your pending passport application, please contact one of my district offices. For more information about U.S. passports, you may also visit the State Department's Web site.