ABOUT US:

CONULAR DIVISION

Overview of the Division

Consular consular functions which should be carried out by an Embassy or Consulate. These functions include, but are not limited to:

• Authentication of legal documents for use in or outside The Bahamas.
• Issuance of visas for persons requiring visas to travel to The Bahamas.
• Assistance to Bahamians who are in need of travel documents or in distress.
• Requests for information on The Bahamas.
• Facilitating procuring foreign visas for Diplomats, Government Officials and Bahamians

LEGALIZATION

Legal documents for use in The Bahamas

Legal documents for use in The Bahamas must be authenticated by the Embassy or a Bahamian Consulate, or by means of an Apostille issued by the Secretary of State. (This only applies to countries which have signed the Hague Convention on Documents). If the document has an Apostille attached, no action is required by the Embassy and the document may be returned to sender. In the absence of an Apostille, the document requires notarization by a Consular Officer. These documents must have a notarial certificate issued by the County or Circuit Court Clerk of the administering county. The signature of the County or Circuit Court Clerk certifies the signature of the Notary Public who notarizes the document. If the notarial certificate is not attached, the document must be returned to sender to obtain the certificate.

Legal Documents for use outside The Bahamas

Legal documents for use outside The Bahamas also require authentication by the Embassy. These documents usually include among others, Powers of Attorney, Certificates of Incorporation, Articles of Associations and Marriage and Birth Certificates. An Apostille issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should accompany these documents. The Apostille certifies the signature of the local attorney or Notary Public in The Bahamas. The Apostille should be signed by an Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Specimen signatures of Officers so designated should be on file. For those countries which have signed the Hague Convention the Apostille issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be sufficient. Where this is not the case, the document must be authenticated by the Embassy.

Authentication Fees

A fee of $20.00 per document is charged to process a document. If the main document is done in duplicate, the second and subsequent copies are $20.00 each. If several copies make up a whole, the main document is $20.00 and the others are $20.00 each. If more than one signature is required on a single document, i.e. there are several signatures, the others are $20.00 each. If the main document is done in duplicate, the second and subsequent signatures is $10.00.

DIPLOMATIC DESK

The Diplomatic Desk is mandated to ensure that Bahamian Diplomatic, Official and Regular passport holders are issued the appropriate visas for travel abroad for work or governmental business.

As a service to the Bahamian public requiring visas to travel to foreign destinations which require visas for travel to a visa, the Desk facilitates the courting of the passports to its various embassies and/or directly to the foreign embassy when so designated for the issuance of the visa.

On a daily basis, the Diplomatic Desk is inundated with calls from the Bahamian public regarding visas which have been denied by the United States Embassy. The principal reasons for denial are “not having sufficient ties to their home country and previous court cases which in some cases have been dismissed.

The Desk is also responsible for the issuance of Bahamian visas to foreign diplomats, embassy officials, staff, immediate family members and domestic staff members who will accompany principal diplomats employed at embassies and consulates located in the Bahamas. Visas are granted after residency status has been granted by the Bahamian Immigration Department.

VISA

Foreigners wishing to travel to The Bahamas for vacation and/or for business may require a visa for entry into the country. Be sure to check the Visa Requirements for Foreign Visitors to The Bahamas to determine the visa requirements for your country at www.bahamas.gov.bs.

Visa Requirements for Entry into The Bahamas

This application is suitable for who wish to visit The Bahamas for tourism purposes. Persons who wish to visit The Bahamas for employment purposes or to attend school must apply to the Department of Immigration.

Eligibility

Any foreigner wishing to travel to The Bahamas

Process

1. Eligibility

2. Application form needs to be completed in BLOCK letters (e.g. DOE, JOHN) and in black or blue ink only.

3. Applicant must appear in person at the nearest Bahamas Consulate or Embassy.

Applying for a Visitor’s Visa

Foreigners wishing to travel to The Bahamas for vacation and/or for business may require a visa for entry into the country. Be sure to check the Visa Requirements for Foreign Visitors to The Bahamas to determine the visa requirements for your country.

1. Eligibility

Any foreigner wishing to travel to The Bahamas

2. Process
4. Supporting Documents
Contact the nearest Bahamas Consulate or Embassy for required supporting documents to be submitted with application form of supporting documents vary from Mission to Mission.
- Valid Passport - All visa applicants must be in possession of a valid passport, with more than 6 months remaining, and a return ticket.
- passport photos on white background
- A job letter/business licence
- An original bank reference letter/statement
- Police report
- Hotel/Cruise itinerary
- Flight itinerary/ticket copy
- Copy of conference/invitation letter
- Copies of previously held visas
- Copy of Children’s Birth Certificate to prove parental relations.
- Copy of a valid work permit (for Companies applying for a foreigner to take up employment in The Bahamas)
- All foreign marriage, birth, and death certificate submitted in support of a visa application must be legalized Apostolized in the country of origin before submission
- Valid US visa (for Foreigners who wish to visit The Bahamas via cruise ship from the USA)

5. Turn-around time
The Visa is usually processed in two weeks.

6. Deadline
Visa applications should be submitted at least two weeks before travel. Applicants applying for a visa at a British Embassy must submit the application at least four weeks prior to travel.

7. Related Fee(s)
The following fees apply for visas obtained at The Bahamas’ Embassies and Consulates. Prices may vary for Bahamian visas obtained at the Bahamas Consulates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Visa</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Entry</td>
<td>BS$55 for multiple entry Bahamian visa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Entry</td>
<td>BS$65 for single entry Bahamian visas (one entry only)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Supporting Documents

4. Supporting Documents

4. Supporting Documents

1. Eligibility
Any Bahamian Citizen

2. Process
a. Visit the nearest Bahamas Overseas Mission to register.
b. Complete a form with your contact information.
  c. You will be required to show proof of identity and citizenship and provide a photograph
d. Inform the Mission if you change your address so that your registration can be updated.
Follow the link at the bottom of this page to find your nearest Overseas Mission.

3. Application Form(s)
Consular form Information form may vary from Mission to Mission.

5. Turn-around time
Registration is processed the same day.

6. Deadline
No deadline applies; however, it is advised that you register with the nearest mission upon entry into a foreign country.

7. Related Fee(s)
There is no fee associated with this service.

CONSULAR SERVICES
Information for Bahamian Nationals in Distress
Bahamian nationals, or relatives of Bahamian nationals, who are in distress in a foreign country may seek information in regards to nationals in distress in a foreign country. (Requirements same as Residing Abroad more information can be obtained from the Bahamian Embassy or Consulate.)

OVERSEAS MISSIONS
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Contact Listing for Overseas Missions

EMBASSIES AND HIGH COMMISSIONS
His Excellency Dr. Eugene Newry, AMBASSADOR
Embassy of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas
Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to the Organization of American States
2220 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC, 20008
Telephone: 202-319-2660/7
Facsimile: 202-319-2668
Email: bahambay@iol.com

His Excellency Eldred Bethel
Bahamas High Commissioner
The Bahamas High Commission
10 Chesterfield Street
London W1A 8AH
England
Telephone: 011-44-20-7488-4888
Facsimile: 011-44-20-99937
Email: info@bahamasbypondon.net

His Excellency Calsey Johnson
High Commissioner
The Bahamas High Commission
Metropolitan Life Centre
50 O’Connor Suite 1313
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1P 6L2
Telephone: (613) 232-1724
Facsimile: (613) 232-0097
Email: ottawa-mission@bahigc.com

Her Excellency Almas Adna
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Embassy of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas
3006 5th Avenue 3/30 y 32
Miramar, Playa
Havana, Republic of Cuba
Telephone: 011-537-206-9918
Facsimile: 011-537-206-9921-23

A valid driver’s licence
5. Turn around Time
Processing time may vary depending on the applicant’s circumstances.

6. Deadline
There is no deadline for this process

7. Related Fee(s)
The processing time may vary depending on the applicant’s circumstances. However, more information can be obtained from the Overseas Missions.

CONSULAR SERVICES
Information for Bahamian Nationals/Students travelling or residing abroad should register at the nearest Bahamas Overseas Mission. Registration is particularly important in countries with a risk of natural disaster, political unrest or criminal violence. It allows Consular staff to be located and assist Bahamian nationals in cases of emergency.

In the event of political unrest, criminal violence, natural disaster or other emergencies, please contact the nearest Bahamas Overseas Mission. The consular staff can keep you informed of developments, help you contact your relatives at home and give you information on emergency evacuation procedures, if necessary. Please follow the link below for a list of Overseas Missions.

1. Eligibility
Any Bahamian Citizen

2. Process
a. Visit the nearest Bahamas Overseas Mission to register.
b. Complete a form with your contact information.
c. You will be required to show proof of identity and citizenship and provide a photograph
d. Inform the Mission if you change your address so that your registration can be updated.

3. Application Form(s)
Consular form Information form may vary from Mission to Mission.

5. Turn-around time
Registration is processed the same day.

6. Deadline
No deadline applies; however, it is advised that you register with the nearest mission upon entry into a foreign country.

7. Related Fee(s)
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