



PASSLANE — FREE GUIDE

The Expedited-Passport Timeline Planner

Work backward from your travel date and pick the right route.

Use this free planner to see the usual passport options, what each route typically requires, and when a private expeditor may or may not help you move faster.

What this planner covers

This tool gives you a plain-language timeline estimate for common U.S. passport situations. It helps you compare routine service, expedited service, and urgent appointment routes based on your travel date and application type. It also shows where delays usually happen, such as photo problems, missing documents, or mailing time.

Passlane is an independent private company. We are a free matching and referral service. We are not the U.S. Department of State, not the National Passport Information Center, not USCIS, and not an embassy or consulate. We do not issue passports, do not process government applications, and do not decide outcomes. Only the government can approve or deny a passport or visa.

The planner uses widely known timing ranges. In many cases, routine service is about 4 to 6 weeks. Expedited service is often about 2 to 3 weeks with an extra official government fee. If you have travel within about 14 days, or a qualifying life-or-death emergency, an urgent appointment may be possible through the official process. These are estimates, not guarantees. For a fuller overview, see [\[passport timelines and fees\]\(/timelines-and-fees/\)](#).

How to use it

Start with your travel date, whether this is a first passport, renewal, child passport, or replacement, and whether you already have the needed documents. The planner is most useful when you answer honestly about timing. If you qualify to renew by mail, that is usually done on Form DS-82. If you need a first passport or do not qualify for mail renewal, you generally apply in person on Form DS-11 at a passport acceptance facility. A child under 16 usually needs both parents involved. A passport card is valid for land and sea travel, but not for international air travel.

The planner can also help you spot the next step:

Apply directly with the government yourself at no service charge

Prepare your documents before you book travel-sensitive steps

Download or get matched

You can use the planner as a simple checklist and save the result for later. It is meant to help you stay organized, not to replace the official instructions. We do not ask for sensitive items like your Social Security number, passport number, or scanned documents on this site. Forms should collect only your contact details and request information.

If your timeline is tight and you want to compare options, you can ask Passlane to [get matched](/get-matched/) with an independent private expediter. That matching service is free to you. You still keep the choice to apply directly with the government on your own, without paying any private service fee.

Please remember:

We do not give legal or immigration advice

Your checklist

- Write down your exact travel date and count the weeks until then
- More than 6 weeks: routine service is usually enough
- 2 to 6 weeks: consider government expedited service (extra official fee)
- Travel within ~14 days: look at an urgent in-person agency appointment
- Life-or-death travel: special same-week appointments may apply
- Need hands-on help: an independent expediter can prepare and hand-carry it
- Confirm current official processing times on the government website
- No service can guarantee timing — only the government decides

Important

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