



## **NATA's Guide for International Transportation of Minors**

The following guidelines are intended to assist NATA members operating under parts 135, 91, and 91(k) in developing updated policy for transporting minors internationally under the latest requirements.

In addition to [passport or proof of citizenship requirements](#),<sup>1</sup> many countries require documentary evidence of the relationship of the accompanying adult(s) to a minor and permission of the parent(s) or legal guardian before they allow a child to cross the border. Single parents, grandparents, or guardians traveling with children often need proof of custody or notarized letters from the other parent authorizing travel.

- ◆ **Minor traveling with one or neither parent:** If a minor child is traveling with only one or neither parent (nor legal guardian), an operator should require a notarized consent form from the absent parent(s), the sole, documented custodial parent, or the legal guardian before transporting the minor over international borders. The consent form should include the traveling parent's name, countries of origin and destination, dates of travel, passport numbers, birth dates and birth country for both the child and traveling companion, and contact information for the non-traveling parent(s).
- ◆ **Minor with one parent who has legal custody:** If one parent has legal custody, they should be prepared to provide proof of custody (court order or similar) prior to departure.
- ◆ **Minor with a different last name:** If a traveling child has a different last name from the mother and/or father accompanying the child, the parents must provide official documentation such as a birth certificate or adoption decree, to prove that they are the parents.
- ◆ **Minor has one deceased parent:** If one parent is deceased, a death certificate should be required.
- ◆ **Minor has one parent:** If the birth certificate shows that the minor only has one parent, a notarized copy of the birth certificate should be required.

### **Key Takeaways:**

- 1) Have a plan. The documentation above should be in place before departure to avoid last-minute scrambling and potential errors. Ensure procedures are also in place to handle any last-minute changes (passport names/dates/numbers are different, additional children, different companions, etc.).
- 2) Develop a written protocol based on the above guidelines. Obtain legal assistance to complete this task, if necessary.

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<sup>1</sup> See the [State Department's website](#) for country-specific guidelines.

\* Updated by Steve Maloney, Principal, Orion Aero LLC, in collaboration with NATA's Air Charter Committee.



- 3) Know the rules and stick to them. Pilots should be briefed in advance so there are no surprises at departure. Transporting children/minors is emotional for parents, guardians, and authorized custodians, ensuring the paperwork is in order before departure eases the process for all parties.
  
- 4) Do not forget brokered flights. The same documentation requirements should apply for an organization arranging transportation on aircraft outside of its own fleet. Require the vendor to follow the same rules and obtain the same documentation as the brokering organization.
  
- 5) There are both criminal and civil penalties involved if a child is kidnapped. While no solution is perfect, liability can be minimized by documenting everything and enforcing the rules without exception.

In summary, establish clear guidance for customers and aircraft owners who fly internationally with minors, apply policies consistently, and proactively communicate the required documentation and policies to passengers for a smooth traveling experience.