



Travelling with a child?

A Canadian Bar Association series supporting legal wellness

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Use this Legal Health Check to prepare for a safe and happy trip. It applies whether you are in a relationship, separated or divorced, or travelling with someone else's child.

HAVE

- A current passport for each child, and send copies to non-accompanying parents
- Certified copies of important documents (like Separation or Custody Agreements, Court Orders or Death Certificates), and send copies to non-accompanying parents
- Identification in your child's pocket, if you get separated
- Recent photographs of the child (on camera or phone provides a digital backup)
- A Travel Consent letter, notarized and signed by non-accompanying parents, organizations with guardianship rights and individuals with parental authority (Quebec). Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada has a model letter: <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/children/consent-letter>

CHECK

- With the airline, and the destination country's embassy or consulate about documents they require
- Travel advisories for any countries you will visit

IF YOUR CHILD IS TRAVELING ALONE

Will the airline escort and supervise the child throughout the trip? Are there age restrictions?

A parent or guardian should stay at the airport until the flight leaves, and the person meeting the child at their destination should have proper identification and authorization.

CAUTION

- You could be accused of child abduction and face serious consequences for travelling with children without consent
- If you must travel and expect problems obtaining consent, consult with a family lawyer about including sole decision-making authority for travel and passports in your Order or Agreement
- If concerned about another parent's travel plans, consult with a family lawyer before consenting

For links and resources, visit cba.org/healthcheck



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Contact or referral info here.