ADMISSION OF CHILDREN INTO AND DEPARTURE FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

(CAME INTO OPERATION ON 1 JUNE 2015)

In terms of section 9 of the Immigration Act, as amended, read with Immigration Regulation 6(12), whenever an adult travels with a child, he or she has to produce amongst others an unabridged birth certificate in respect of that child at any South African port of entry. This applies to:

- South African travellers travelling internationally and returning to the Republic of South Africa from another country;
- foreign nationals travelling to and from the Republic of South Africa who require a visa; and
- foreign nationals travelling to and from the Republic of South Africa who do not require a visa.

Where **both parents are travelling with a child (under the age of 18)**, such parents must produce –

- an unabridged birth certificate of the child reflecting the particulars of the parents of the child.
  (If the unabridged birth certificate is not in English, it must be translated into English and certified as a correct translation by a sworn translator)

In the case of **one parent travelling with a child (under the age of 18)**, he or she must produce –

- an unabridged birth certificate of the child reflecting the particulars of the parents of the child;
  (If the unabridged birth certificate is not in English, it must be translated into English and certified as a correct translation by a sworn translator

- consent in the form of an affidavit from the other parent registered as a parent on the birth certificate of the child authorising him or her to enter into or depart from the Republic of South Africa with the child he or she is travelling with;
  (An 'affidavit is a document signed by the parent before a commissioner of oath who must authenticate the signed document. If the affidavit is not in English, it must be translated into English and certified as a correct translation by a sworn translator.)

- a court order granting full parental responsibilities and rights or legal guardianship in respect of the child, if he or she is the parent or legal guardian of the child; or
  (If the court order is not in English, it must be translated into English and certified as a correct translation by a sworn translator.)

- where applicable, a death certificate of the other parent registered as a parent of the child on the birth certificate.
  (If the death certificate is not in English, it must be translated into English and certified as a correct translation by a sworn translator.

Provided that the Director-General may, where the parents of the child are both deceased and the child is travelling with a relative or another person related to him or her or his or her parents, approve such a person to enter into or depart from the Republic of South Africa with such a child.

Where a **person is travelling with a child (under the age of 18), who is not his or her biological child**, he or she must produce –

- a copy of the unabridged birth certificate of the child reflecting the particulars of the parents of the child; (If the unabridged birth certificate is not in English, it must be translated into English and certified as a correct translation by a sworn translator.

- an affidavit from the parents or legal guardian of the child confirming that he or she has permission to travel with the child;
  (An 'affidavit is a document signed by parents before a commissioner of oath who must authenticate the signed document. If the affidavit is not in English, it must be translated into English and certified as a correct translation by a sworn translator.)

- copies of the identity documents or passports of the parents or legal guardian of the child; and

- the contact details of the parents or legal guardian of the child.

Provided that the Director-General may, where the parents of the child are both deceased and the child is travelling with a relative or another person related to him or her or his or her parents, approve such a person to enter into or depart from the Republic of South Africa with such a child.

Any **unaccompanied minor (child under the age of 18)** shall produce to the immigration officer –

- proof of consent from one of or both his or her parents or legal guardian, as the case may be, in the form of a letter or affidavit for the child to travel into or depart from the Republic of South Africa;
  (Provided that in the case where one parent provides proof of consent, that parent must also provide a copy of a court order (if not in English, it must be translated into English and certified as a correct translation by a sworn translator) issued to him or her in terms of which he or she has been granted full parental responsibilities and rights in respect of the child.)

- a letter from the person who is to receive the child in the Republic of South Africa, containing his or her residential address and contact details in the Republic where the child will be residing;

- a copy of the identity document or valid passport and visa or permanent residence permit of the person who is to receive the child in the Republic of South Africa; and

- the contact details of the parents or legal guardian of the child.

See also: http://www.home-affairs.gov.za/index.php/statements-speeches/621-advisory-new-requirements-for-children-travelling-through-south-african-ports-of-entry-effective-1-june-2015