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Stolen United States Passports: What Documents To Gather And Who To Call

An individual must bring a passport when traveling outside of the United States. This document serves as proof of identity for every United States citizen and travel beyond the U.S. borders cannot be done without it. A [lost U S passport](#) while traveling will prevent the passbook holder from being readmitted to the U.S. Therefore, everyone should know how to replace the document in order to act quickly in such an emergency situation

If a passbook goes missing, the most important thing is to report it immediately. If someone tries to use a passbook that is not his or her own, it could cause a serious security breach at an airport. If the document is lost in the United States, it can be reported by phone or by filling out a DS-64 form and mailing it to the Department of State. If someone happens to be out of the country when he or she loses the passbook, he or she should immediately report it to the closest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Those who have lost their passbook while traveling will find it a bit more difficult to replace. The individual should make copies of the passbook prior to traveling and stash these in a carry on, checked baggage, or a wallet. A person can also obtain a certain type of insurance that will cover the replacement cost of the passbook.

The individual will need to show up in person in order to replace the [US passport](#) when traveling overseas. A directory of U.S. consulates and embassies that will handle this situation can be found on the Internet. Since Web access may not be easy to obtain during foreign travel, the individual should ask the hotel staff for the information. To be the most proactive, passbook holders should do their research, print this information prior to leaving for the trip, and pack it with the other travel documents.

When a passbook is recorded as missing, it will be invalidated immediately and will not be permissible for travel. If the passbook is later located, it must be turned in to the U.S. State Department for handling. The agency will cancel the document and provide it to the passbook holder if requested. The cancelled document will not be valid for international travel, so the holder should make sure it is lost before it is reported as such.

In order to replace a lost or stolen passport, the holder must apply for a new one in person. The individual will need all of the same forms and identification as when he or she applied for the initial passbook and will also need a form regarding the incident. It will take four to six weeks to receive the new passbook, just as a first passbook.

If the passbook is lost immediately before traveling, this presents a complication. Many travelers will not be able to wait up to six weeks for regular government processing of the documents. They may then opt for expedited processing services that will result in a new passport within two or three weeks. If this still is not quick enough, the individual may retain the services of a private company that will rush processing for an additional fee.

The situation of having a [lost or stolen us passport](#) is inconvenient, but as long as the holder follows the proper steps, it is not devastating. Passbook holders should immediately report the document as missing and then obtain a new passbook. Getting the new document while traveling will be a bit more expensive due to rush processing, but it will allow the individual to continue travel.

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