

Julian Pokroy

ATTORNEYS AT LAW – SINCE 1980
Immigration and Nationality Law Practice

BREAKING NEWS!!!!

EXTENSION OF UNABRIDGED BIRTH CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS EXTENDED

The Minister of Home Affairs Malusi Gigaba has just announced changes to the implementation of South Africa's new visa rules in respect of the requirement for an unabridged birth certificate to be provided upon entry into South Africa for either children travelling to South Africa.

There was an initial uproar when the new Immigration Regulations came into operation on the 26th of May this year announcing this requirement.

Initially the deadline was pushed forward to the 1st of October 2014 but the subsequent backlash and reaction to this requirement has resulted in a further announcement of a postponement to June 1st 2015.

Whilst understanding the need for this type of requirement, the extension is welcomed.

Our advice to foreigners travelling to South Africa with minor children is to ensure that they do comply with these requirements, even at this stage, if they do have the relevant documents at hand. At the very least proof that the minor travelling is in the legal care of its parents or that there is proof that the accompanying adult is authorized to be travelling with that minor child.

QUOTA WORK VISA – CONFIRMATIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

It is important to note that despite the fact that the quota work visa category has been done away with under the amendments to the Immigration Act, it is

still required of quota work visa holders to confirm employment on a yearly basis.

A confirmation of employment process ensures that the quota work visa remains current and valid at all times.

This is specifically important in respect of individuals who wish to remain on in South Africa beyond the expiry date of their current quota work visa at which stage they will obviously have to change status to a different category of work visa.

This is also vitally important in respect of individuals who wish to apply for permanent residence based on their skills. Being able to prove that your confirmation of employment applications have been attended to is a necessary step for the abovementioned two application processes.

Should you require assistance with the confirmation of employment, please do contact our offices by way of email to enquiries@immigration.org.za.

TRANSFER OF VISAS AND RECTIFICATIONS

Please be advised that the Visa Facilitation Service centres have now confirmed that they are attending to applications for transfer of visas into new passports. This is obviously required where you have obtained a new passport and your visa is still contained in your old passport.

In addition, they are also attending to rectification of visas where a visa has been issued incorrectly in some way by the Department of Home Affairs.

Accordingly, should you require assistance with either of the above applications, please do contact our offices by way of email to enquiries@immigration.org.za.

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DISCONTINUATION OF TEMPORARY PASSPORTS

The Department of Home Affairs announced that temporary passports will be discontinued as from 1 September 2014.

The reason for taking this decision is that the turnaround time in respect of issuance of a passport has been dramatically reduced over the years thus nullifying the need for a temporary passport.

An emergency travel certificate will still be issued in respect of emergency travel purposes such as the loss of a passport while traveling abroad.

DECLARATION AS AN UNDESIRABLE PERSON

We did report some time back regarding the issue of being declared an undesirable person if you exit South Africa without being in possession of a current and valid South African visa.

The situation in respect of individuals who exit South Africa without a current and valid visa but who have an application pending with the Department of Home Affairs allows for such individual to lodge an application to appeal against this decision to be declared an undesirable person.

The application process is being dealt with on a relatively speedy basis by the Department of Home Affairs. However, as with any application, it is vitally important to ensure that the correct facts are brought to the attention of the Department of Home Affairs in lodging such an application.

While it has been advised by our offices that it is best to rather await the outcome of your application from the Department of Home Affairs before making any travel plans to leave South Africa, if you are required

to leave South Africa please do contact our office prior to your departure so that we can assist you in respect of the overstay appeal process.

**AS ALWAYS, WE ENDEAVOUR TO KEEP YOU UP TO
DATE ON ALL IMMIGRATION RELATED ISSUES**

JULIAN POKROY

AND

TARRYN POKROY RIETVELD

AND

THE TEAM AT JULIAN POKROY ATTORNEYS