



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 2021 DIVERSITY IMMIGRANT VISA PROGRAM (DV-2021)

1. My passport number is more than 9 digits long and I cannot enter all the numbers in the required field. What should I enter for the passport number?

- Enter the first nine numbers of your passport number.

Note: All machine readable travel documents should have a passport number in the machine readable zone that is limited to nine characters consistent with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) specifications. For most passports, this nine digit number is the same number listed on the biographic page of the passport as the “passport number”. However, some countries use an ICAO compliant number in the machine readable zone and also list a different number as the “passport number” on the biographic page of the passport.

2. My passport is valid for more than 10 years from today and I cannot choose the correct year of expiration in the required field. What should I enter for the passport expiration date?

- Enter the day and month of expiry the same as it is listed in your passport; enter 2028 as the year of expiration.

3. Venezuela Passport Holders: My passport has expired and I cannot enter an expiration date earlier than today’s date. I hear that the United States recognizes an additional five years of validity for Venezuelan passports. What should I enter for the passport expiration date?

- Add five years to the year listed in your passport as the expiration date. If you have received an extension or “prórrogga” add seven years to the year listed in your passport as the expiration date.

Note: Effective June 7, 2019, Venezuelan passport validity was extended an additional five years past the date of expiration printed in the passport. Venezuelan passport holders who have already received an extension or “prórrogga” will have the validity period extended by five years from the end date of the extension. The Department will accept all Venezuelan passports, valid or expired, so long as it is still considered valid after adding five years to the printed expiration date.

4. Can I use my refugee travel document to satisfy the passport requirement for entry into DV-2021?

- If you are applying for the DV lottery and do not have a valid passport, but you do have a refugee travel document, you may enter your refugee travel document number in place of the passport number, along with the issuing entity and expiration date.

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Note: Not all refugee travel documents meet the definition of a “passport” as it is defined in INA 101(a)(30). DV entrants who are selected may require an individual passport waiver at the time of visa application if such refugee travel document does not qualify as a valid passport.

5. How do I know if I will qualify for a passport exemption as a stateless person at the time of DV entry?

- DV entrants who select this exemption at the time of DV entry will be asked to explain why they selected this exemption and do not have a valid passport.

Note: In general, statelessness is a rare situation. If you claim to be stateless, the burden will be on you to prove to the satisfaction of the consular officer that you did not acquire the nationality of your country of birth under the laws of that country and do not have any other nationality. Applicants who are unable to prove to the satisfaction of the consular officer that they qualify for this exemption may be disqualified.

6. How do I know if I will qualify for a passport exemption as a national of a communist-controlled country unable to obtain a passport from the government of that country?

- DV entrants who select this exemption at the time of DV entry will be asked to explain why he/she is unable to obtain a passport.

Note: If you claim this exemption, the burden will be on you to prove to the satisfaction of the consular officer that you are unable to obtain a passport from your country of nationality. Applicants who are unable to prove to the satisfaction of the consular officer that they qualify for this exemption may be disqualified.

7. I am unable to obtain a passport. Can I claim an exemption on this basis? If not, how can I apply for an individual waiver of the passport requirement/exemption?

- DV entrants who select this exemption at the time of DV entry will be asked to explain why they selected this exemption and do not have a valid passport.

Note: Individual waivers to the passport requirement are considered only at the time of visa application. If you claim this exemption, the burden will be on you to prove to the satisfaction of the consular officer that you had received an individual waiver of the passport requirement at the time of DV entry and are unable to obtain a passport. Applicants who are unable to prove to the satisfaction of the consular officer that they qualify for this exemption may be disqualified.

Simply being unable to obtain a passport does not automatically mean you qualify for a waiver of the passport requirement.