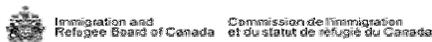


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Canada

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

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Responses to Information Requests

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13 November 2007

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Pakistan: Procedures to obtain an ordinary passport within Pakistan
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

The website of the Ministry of Interior explains the procedure to obtain a passport within Pakistan (Pakistan 9 Feb. 2007). Machine readable passports (MRPs) have replaced the manual system of issuing passports (*ibid.*). There are three types of passport: diplomatic, official and ordinary passports (*ibid.*). A diplomatic passport, which has a red cover, is issued to ambassadors, career diplomats and other government officials (US 6 Apr. 2007). An official passport, which has a blue cover, is issued to high-ranking civil service personnel and military personnel travelling on official business and to members of the National Assembly and their immediate family members (*ibid.*). An ordinary passport, which has a green cover, is available to any qualifying citizen of Pakistan for personal travel and is normally valid for five years (*ibid.*).

Ordinary MRPs can be issued through the standard procedure which takes about 12 days or by requesting an urgent passport, which takes about 5 days (Pakistan 9 Feb. 2007). The following documents must be presented to obtain an ordinary MRP: an applicant must present his or her original National Database Registration Authority (NADRA) identity card along with two photocopies, his or her old passport along with a photocopy, and the fee of 2,100 rupees [1 Pakistani rupee = \$0.02 Canadian dollars (Canada 24 Oct. 2007)] (Pakistan 9 Feb. 2007). Those with dual nationality must also provide their foreign passports with a photocopy and government employees must provide a no objection certificate (NOC) (*ibid.*).

The same documents must be presented when applying for an urgent ordinary MRP; the only difference is that the applicable fee is 4,000 rupees and the passport will be delivered in 5 days (*ibid.*). In the case of a lost passport, a double fee will be charged for a first time loss, a quadruple fee will be charged for a second time loss and the case will be referred to the Directorate General Immigration and Passport in the case of a third time loss (Pakistan 9 Feb. 2007).

Even though the Ministry of Interior indicates that there are 25 Regional Passport Offices within Pakistan, the Directorate General of Immigration and Passports lists the following 26: Abbotabad, Bahawalpur, Bannu, D.G. Khan, D.I. Khan, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Hyderabad, Islamabad, Karachi (2 locations), Kohat, Larkana, Lahore (2 locations), Mirpur, Multan, Muzaffarabad, Peshawar, Quetta, Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Sialkot, Sukkar, Swat, (Pakistan n.d.). An applicant must present himself or herself at one of the Regional Passport Offices in Pakistan and proceed through the following procedure: upon arriving at the customer service counter, staff will verify that the applicant has all of the required documents and the applicant will then proceed to the token counter (*ibid.* 9 Feb. 2007). Once at the token counter, the applicant must present his or her Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) or computerized registration certificate if the applicant is less than 18 years of age along with a bank form for the applicable fee and then a token will be issued to the applicant (*ibid.*). A verification of these documents against office records will then be carried out and the applicant will proceed to the biometric counter where impressions of thumb and index fingers of both hands will be taken (*ibid.*). The applicant will then proceed to the photograph centre where his or her photograph will be taken, then the applicant will advance to the data entry counter where all of the required data is entered into the system (*ibid.*). The applicant will be asked to verify the data entered and to sign a form to confirm the accuracy of the information and the applicant will be given a token to proceed to the next step (*ibid.*). Once the information is saved, if any modifications have to be made, the token will be cancelled and the applicant will have to go through the whole process again under the modification category and resubmit the applicable fee (*ibid.*). The final step is the interview before the Assistant Director who will declare whether the application is allowed or overruled (*ibid.*). Attestation of the photograph is also done at this stage by a government officer who writes his or her CNIC number and affixes the official stamp on the form (*ibid.*). The applicant must then collect his or her passport after the applicable delay for processing (*ibid.*).

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. **This web page has been archived on the Web.**

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