



## DENMARK INTRODUCES NEW BIOMETRIC PASSPORTS 1 JANUARY 2012

**From 1 January 2012 the number of Danish missions abroad where you can apply for a new passport will be reduced.**

From 1 January 2012 new Danish passports must contain digital photos, fingerprints and signatures. In this way the security against forgery and misuse of passports is strengthened considerably. Passports issued until 1 October already hold a digital photo of the holder. **Your present passport is still valid until the date of expiry.**

The decision to introduce fingerprints in passports has been made at central level in the EU as part of the combat against terrorism, human trade, human trafficking, illegal immigration and other transnational crime. With the new biometric passport Danish citizens are secured the possibility to travel to countries which in the future will demand this type of passport for entry.

With the new passport you are in a better way protected against someone stealing your identity and pretending to be you and against forgery of your passport.

In order to issue the new passport installation of special equipment for taking photos and recording fingerprints and signature is necessary. The applications must be handed to and handled by specially authorized staff, who will have access to certain data in the central citizens registry, the CPR-registry.

As a consequence, from 1 January 2012 the number of passport issuing Danish missions abroad will be reduced. A list of Embassies and Consulates which will issue biometric passports can be downloaded from [this](#) page. The Danish Honorary Consulates will from 1 January 2012 no longer receive applications for biometric passports.

### **What can be handled by the consulates from 1 January 2012?**

After 1 January 2012 the Honorary Consulates can still extend the validity of passports and issue emergency passports. From 21 May 2012 it is however also possible to apply for passports for children under the age of 12 (no fingerprints required) at the Honorary Consulates in Australia, Fiji and New Zealand. It is still possible to apply at the Embassy in Canberra and the Consulate General in Sydney.

A condition for extension of an expired passport is that it expired no longer than three months ago. (Until 1 January 2012 a passport may be extended, if not expired more than two years ago). A passport can only be extended once and for a maximum of 12 months. We recommend that you make sure that the authorities of the country or countries you plan to travel to recognise extended passports. For instance it is not possible to travel without a visa to the USA on an extended passport.

An emergency passport is issued with validity limited to the period required for the duration of the journey and rules of the countries to be travelled through, and for a maximum of 12 months. An emergency passport must be rendered to the Police or to a Danish mission abroad after use. Travelling with an emergency passport may cause problems with other countries' border controls. Therefore we recommend that you make sure that the authorities of the country or countries you plan to travel to recognize emergency passports.

### **Can I get a new passport during my holiday in Denmark?**

Danes living abroad can apply for passports while visiting Denmark or while visiting a country with a Danish passport issuing mission. It is now possible to collect the passport at a place different from where the application was lodged. If you apply in Denmark, it is possible to pick up the passport not only at the Embassy in Canberra or the Consulate General in Sydney but also at the Honorary Consulates in Australia, Fiji and New Zealand. It is also possible to pick up passports at all other Danish missions abroad including all other Honorary Consulates. It is recommended, however, to apply early enough in order to be able to pick up the passport prior to leaving Denmark. If you apply at a Danish mission abroad, it is possible to pick up your passport at any Danish mission abroad including Honorary Consulates.

By mid-August it will furthermore be possible to pick up passports at a number of municipal civil service centres

in Denmark. An additional fee of DKK 185.- (2012 rate) is payable when you pick up passports abroad at a location different from where the application was lodged.

**Must I present myself at the Danish Mission which issued my passport to have it handed over to me?**

You may require at the mission that issued your passport whether it is possible to have the passport sent to you, but you must be aware that the old passport must be handed in for cancellation, before the new passport can be delivered to you.

**Must I bring photos for the passport?**

No. With the new biometrics equipment the mission can take photos for the passport. So if you apply for an ordinary passport you do no longer need to bring photos after 1 January 2012. If you apply for an emergency passport you must bring 2 photos.

Children: We recommend bringing a new photo of the child which meets the [requirements](#) for passport photos. That photo can then be scanned by the mission if it is not possible for us to take a photo of the child that meets the requirements.

**Can I apply for a biometric passport if my finger is injured?**

That depends on the extent of the injury. According to the law biometric data must always be contained in a biometric passport. This means that if for example your whole hand is covered by plaster or bandages, only an emergency passport can be issued to you. However, if only the index finger is injured a biometric passport can be issued. In that case fingerprint will be taken of an alternative finger.

**Must children also give their fingerprints?**

No. Fingerprints are not collected from children below 12 years of age, but they still have to appear in person in order to apply for a passport.

**Can my child be included in my passport?**

No. Since 1 October 2004 children, also new-born and children without names, must have their own passport. A mission may issue a temporary (emergency) passport if you are in urgent need of a passport. See above on emergency passports.