

Frequently asked questions on Consular services/OCI Card

Birth registration:-

Q: We are a couple with Indian passports. We have a child born to us in a foreign country. How do we get Indian citizenship for the child and an Indian passport for him/her?

A: In order to get Indian citizenship for a child born to Indian parent(s) in a foreign country, the birth of the child is to be registered at the nearest Indian Embassy/Consulate and thereafter (or at the same time) the parents can apply for issue of an Indian passport for the child. For more information, kindly contact Indian Embassy/Consulate in your jurisdiction or visit their website.

Q: Can Mission/Post attest the Birth Certificate issued by the authorities in India?

A: Yes, provided the birth certificate issued by the competent authorities has been authenticated by the Home Department of the concerned State/Union Territory in India and then by the Attestation Section of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), New Delhi or the MEA Branch Secretariats in Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Guwahati.

Death Registration

Q: How Indian Mission/Consulate help in transporting dead body of Indian in a foreign country?

A: Missions/Consulates help in doing paper work, issuing death certificate, cancelling passport of the deceased and intimating relevant authorities in India in smooth transporting of dead body on Indian national to their home town.

Relationship certificate

Q: What kind of relationship certificate do Missions/Posts issue?

A: As per requirement of Indian national, Missions/Consulates issue relationship certificate amongst family members for getting visa.

NRI Certificate

Q: What kind of NRI certificate is issued from Missions/Consulates?

A: Sometimes NRI certificate is required in India to open a bank account and other miscellaneous services. Missions/Posts issue NRI Certificates to state NRI status of the applicants.

No Objection Certificate for issue of passport to Minors

Q: How to get 'No Objection Certificate' to get new passport for newly born baby or minors if one of the parents is in a foreign country.

A: For this 'No Objection Certificate', one need to apply in prescribed format at the nearest Consulate or Embassy with all relevant documents viz date of birth certificate, passport copy of the parents, passport copy of the child if he/she has, visa copy, residence proof and police registration certificate.

Police Clearance Certificate.

Q: What is a Police Clearance Certificate (PCC)?

A: Police Clearance Certificate (PCC) is issued to Indian Passport holders in case they have applied for Residential Status, Employment or Long term visa or for immigration. PCC cannot be issued for persons going abroad on Tourist Visa.

Q: I am an Indian National staying abroad, Local Government has asked me to submit Police Clearance certificate. How to apply for a PCC at an Indian Mission and what are the documents required for a PCC application?

A: The application form can be downloaded from the website of the Indian Mission and submitted along with the supporting documents indicated. Documents required are passport copy, visa copy, residence proof police registration certificate, work permit, employment letter, letter from old company if joining a new company, one photo. Original passport need to be present at the time of submission of the application.

Note: For foreign nationals, Police Clearance Certificate needs to be obtained from the District Police or the FRRO at the place of residence in India. Copies of such a certificate may be attested by the Indian Mission on production of the original.

Consular Complaints and Grievances

Q: What are various administrative measures put in place to redress the grievances of emigrant workers?

A: Several administrative and operative measures have been put in place to enhance the protection and welfare of emigrant workers and avoid their exploitation by unscrupulous agents. These include MADAD Portal, e-Migrate, Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC), Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs), Indian Workers Resource Centre (IWRC) etc. for more details please visit website of nearest mission/post.

Q: What are the various Consular Services provided by our Embassies and Consulates abroad?

A: Life Certificate, Relationship Certificate, bachelorhood certificate, Attestation of Power Of Attorney/Affidavits Relating to Property Or Financial Matters, Registration of Birth, Attestation of Death Documents, Attestation Of Documents (such as Pan Form, Bank Statement, Salary Statement, Copy of Indian Passport, Copy of a Document Issued by a foreign authority (Passport, Driving License, etc.), Birth Certificate, No Objection Certificate for Child's Passport to be issued In India, NRI Certificate, Police Clearance Certificate (PCC) and other miscellaneous certificates as per requirement.

OCI Related Matters

Q: I am a Person of Indian Origin, currently in India on a visa. Where should I apply for an OCI Card? What are the documents required? How long does it take for issue of the Card?

A: Applicants residing any part of the country can file with Foreigners Regional Registration Offices (FRRO), Delhi at - **FRRO**, East Block-VIII, Level-2, Sector-1, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110066. **Phone:** 011-26711384.

Applicants in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Amritsar can also file with the respective Foreigners Regional Registration Officers (FRROs) at the following addresses:

- FRRO, East Block-VIII, Level-2, Sector-1, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110066. Tel. No. 011-26711384.
- FRRO, Badruddin Tayyabji Marg, Mumbai-1. Tel. No. 022-26571998.
- FRRO, Shastri Bhavan Annexe, 26, Haddows Road, Chennai. Tel. No. 044-28232642.
- FRRO, 237, A.J.C. Bose Road, Kolkata. Tel. No. 033-22900549.
- FRRO, D-123, Ranjeet Avenue, Amritsar. Tel. No. 0183-2508250.
- FRRO, Office of the FRRO, SBI Hyderabad, Beside Kendriya Sadan Hyderabad (AP)
- FRRO, Office of the FRRO No-55, Double Road, (Near ESI Hospital) Indira Nagar, Bengaluru-560038
- FRRO, Trivandrum SIB Trivandrum 572 Montfort House Thycand, Trivandrum Tel. 0471-2320162
- FRRO Cochin, 2ndfloor, Airlines Building, Cochin International Airport Cochin – 682111, Tel. 0484-2611277
- FRRO/BOI, Calicut International Airport, Malappuram Kerala Pin-673047 Tel. 0483-2717198
- FRRO Goa, Near Hotel International Escola Building, Tonca Caranzalem, Goa Tel. 0832-2462202
- FRRO Lucknow, CCS Airport, Lucknow Tel. 0522-2439786

Further details are available at: <https://indianfrro.gov.in/> 

Q: I am a person of Indian origin as my parents were born in undivided India before partition. After partition, they briefly held Pakistani citizenship before moving to the United States. Am I eligible for an OCI card?

A: No. If the applicant, or his/her parents or grand-parents have ever been a citizen of Pakistan or Bangladesh, he/she **will not** be eligible for OCI card.

Q: I am a Person of Indian Origin currently living in a foreign country. Where should I apply for an OCI Card? What are the documents required? How long does it take for issue of the Card?

A: Applicants outside India can file applications to

- The Indian Mission /Post having jurisdiction over the country of which applicant is a citizen; or
- If he/she is not living in the country of his/her citizenship, to the Indian Mission/Post having jurisdiction over the country of which the applicant is ordinarily resident irrespective of the fact that the same Indian Mission/ Post issued the original OCI documents or not.

For details of the documents required, please refer to the website of the Ministry of Home Affairs: <http://mha1.nic.in/foreigDiv/OCI.html>. It normally takes about 6-7 weeks for issue of an OCI Card.

Q: I hold a valid PIO Card. Am I required to convert this to an OCI Card? (The Prime Minister has announced that PIO Cards will be deemed to be equal to OCI Cards.) Will my PIO Card be valid beyond the conversion deadline of 30 June 2016?

A: yes it is compulsory to convert your PIO Card to an OCI Card in order to avoid any potential inconvenience at immigration check points, as all instructions and updates in the future will only relate to OCI Cards. PIO Card holders have been advised to apply for conversion of their PIO Cards to OCI Cards by December 31, 2016.

Q: What is the procedure to convert a PIO Card to an OCI Card? How much time does this take?

A: Please apply online for conversion of your PIO Card to OCI Card at <https://passport.gov.in/oci/captchaActionPIO> for applicants already in India. In the case of applicants staying abroad, please apply at the concerned Indian Embassy/Consulate either directly with the documents prescribed by the Embassy/Consulate. It should be noted that this service will be rendered by the Embassy/Consulate free of charge.

Q: Is a Renunciation Certificate compulsory before I apply for an OCI Card?

A: Yes, a Renunciation Certificate (renouncing your Indian nationality and surrendering your Indian passport) is compulsory before applying for an OCI card.

Q: Can I travel to India with just my OCI Card, or should I also carry the passport which contains the 'U' Visa (OCI Visa)?

A: Vide circular No. 26011/06/2015-OCI dated 29th January, 2015 of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, all immigration authorities in India will not insist on production of the foreign passport containing the 'U' Visa Sticker in the case of OCI Cardholders while they enter/exit India and the immigration clearance will be granted based on production of just the OCI card, accompanied by a valid passport (which may not have the U visa sticker).

Q: My spouse is a foreign national of non-Indian origin. I hold an OCI Card. Is my spouse entitled to an OCI Card? What about my children?

A: Yes, the spouse of foreign origin of a citizen of India or spouse of foreign origin of an Overseas Citizen of India cardholder registered under section 7A and whose marriage has been registered and subsisted for a continuous period of not less than two years immediately preceding the presentation of the application, can apply for an OCI card. Minor children whose both parents are citizens of India or one of whose parents is a citizen of India are eligible to apply for an OCI Card.

Q: Are foreign military personnel of Indian origin eligible for OCI cards?

A: No, foreign military personnel either in service or retired are not entitled for grant of OCI. No person who has earlier served in a foreign military organisation is eligible for an OCI card.

Q: What are the situations for which re-issue of an existing OCI card is necessary?

A: In case of issuance of new passport, For an applicant who is 20 years of age or younger, OCI documents must be re-issued each time a new passport is issued, For an applicant who is 50 years of age or older, OCI documents must be re-issued once after the issuance of a new passport. (If the OCI card is issued for the first time after the age of 50 years, then there is no need for re-issuance of OCI.), For an applicant who is 21 to 49 years of age, there is no need to re-issue OCI documents each time a new passport is issued. However, if the applicant desires, he/she can request that the OCI documents be re-issued so that the OCI documents reflect the correct passport number, In case there is a change in personal particulars, In case of loss/damage of passport and/or OCI booklet, For correcting personal particulars entered wrongly while submitting online applications e.g. name, father's name, date of birth, etc., In case of change of address/occupation

Please view the full requirements for OCI Re-issue for more information at the following link: <http://mha1.nic.in/pdfs/GuidelinesOCI.pdf> 

Q: What are the benefits available to an OCI Card holder?

A: An OCI card holder gets the following benefits:

- A multiple entry, multi-purpose life-long visa for visiting India.
- Exemption from registration with local police authority for any length of stay in India.
- Parity with Non-resident Indians (NRIs) in respect of economic, financial and educational fields as per the relevant Acts, except in relation to acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties.
- OCI can be used as identity proof for application of PAN Card and driving licence as well as for opening a bank account if the OCI card holder is residing in India.

Q: What are the benefits to which an OCI card holder is NOT entitled to?

A: The OCI Card holder is not entitled:

- to vote;
- to be a member of a Legislative Assembly or of a Legislative Council or of the Parliament of India;
- to hold Indian constitutional posts such as that of the President, Vice President, Judge of the Supreme Court or High Court etc.;
- He/she cannot normally hold employment in the Government

Q: Can an OCI Card holder renounce his OCI status?

A: Yes. He/she has to declare their intention of renunciation in Form XXII to the Indian Mission/Post where OCI registration was granted. After receipt of the declaration, the Indian Mission/Post shall issue an acknowledgement in Form XXII A. A separate application form is available for this purpose.

Q: I have a valid OCI Card and a valid foreign passport. Is there any minimum validity specified for my foreign passport?

A: You will be allowed entry into India if you have a valid OCI Card and a valid foreign passport, with a minimum remaining validity of six months. You do not need to carry the old passport on which your "U" (OCI) Visa was stamped, if that happens to be different from your current passport.
