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The U.S. Citizen

A newsletter by the U.S. Embassy's Consular Section for American Citizens in Zimbabwe



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Special points of interest:

- * Make sure you register your presence in Zimbabwe online using STEP at <http://step.state.gov>.

The new Zimbabwe permanent residency stamp.



“The first step toward change is awareness. The second step is acceptance”
(Nathaniel Branden).

We live in a dynamic world where change is inevitable. One of the important changes that we have seen in the past few months is the change of the Zimbabwean permanent residence permit. While the U.S. Embassy does not yet have official information about this change we have attempted to collect as much information from public sources as possible.

It is the U.S. Embassy's understanding that Zimbabwe immigration has introduced a new permanent residence permit which comes in the form of a sticker affixed in your passport. We understand that the new sticker has contemporary security fea-

tures and was introduced in line with advances in global trends for document integrity and because some countries no longer accept the outdated permanent residency endorsements in passports.

If you are a permanent resident in Zimbabwe and you still have the old residence permit certifi-

“Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future”
(John F. Kennedy).

cate, you should start thinking about changing your permit to the new one. The grace period for changing to the new permanent residence sticker extends until the end of this calendar year, however because a lot of people have already changed to the new sticker some countries have started asking a lot of questions when pre-

sented with the old Zimbabwean residence permits.

The upgrade to the new permanent residence sticker costs US\$100.00 per passport.

The application requires:

- a letter to Immigration requesting the new permanent residence stamp
- the original old permanent residency certificate must be attached to the application
- a brief autobiography of the applicant
- photocopies of the biodata pages for the applicant's old and current passports and the passport pages showing the previous permanent residence endorsements
- a photocopy of applicants identity card (if applicable)
- marriage certificate and birth certificates for spouse and dependents
- proof of Zimbabwean residency in the form of utility bills
- proof of employment if applicable



The STEP website address is:

<http://step.state.gov>



Enroll in STEP

Enrolling in this free service will allow us to better assist you in case of an emergency while you are abroad

The most important aspect of STEP is the ability to “pre-sign” a Privacy Act waiver, which allows us to communicate with your loved ones in the event of an emergency.

The new Zimbabwe permanent residency stamp, cont.

The processing time for the new permanent residency sticker is 2 -3 days for Harare residents and 1 day for out of Harare residents.

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sent are certain to miss the future” (John F. Kennedy).

We hope this article has shed some light on the changes going on with the permanent residency stamps and will help you to be

better prepared for tomorrow. If you think this article has been helpful please send us a WhatsApp text on 0772130637 or share your thoughts so that we are more informed to assist the next person.

Non Impediment certificate for marriage purposes

Consular officers are frequently approached for assistance by U.S. citizens planning to be married abroad. American citizens sometimes harbor misconceptions about the authority consular officers have with respect to marriage abroad.

Some countries, including Zimbabwe, require persons who wish to marry to provide written proof, issued by governmental authority, that there is no legal impediment to the marriage. No such document can be issued by the U.S. government because the United States does not have a central federal marriage registry. Marriage licenses and certificates are issued and man-

aged by the 50 states. Zimbabwean authorities often do not accept state-issued documents.

“American citizens sometimes harbor misconceptions about the authority of consular officers with respect to marriage abroad”

Consular Officers may be able to assist with an affidavit that might be accepted for marriage purposes but it is important to note that:

a. Diplomatic and

Consular officers and U.S. Ambassadors cannot conduct marriage ceremonies.

- b. Consular Officers cannot issue any official certificate with respect to marriage laws, even if knowledgeable about the host country laws of marriage .
- c. Consular Officers cannot make any official certification about the status or eligibility of an individual to marry, or about the laws of the United States or of any of the fifty States or Territo-

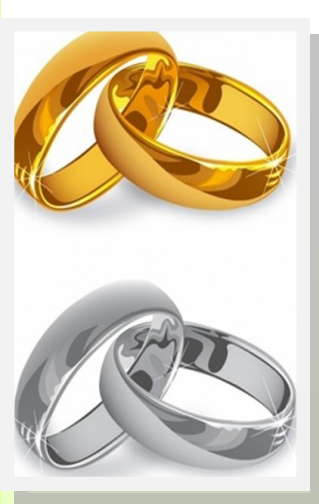


The Consular section has two WhatsApp numbers:
0772 124 896
for U.S. Citizen emergencies after hours and
0772 130 637
for general enquiries

Non Impediment certificate for marriage purposes, cont.

ries about eligibility for marriage or the solemnization of a marriage.

d. Consular Officers cannot give an official or authoritative opinion on matters of local (host country) law and practices to parties proposing to be married abroad.



record will be recognized

in court is a matter to be determined by that court.

For further information on this issue and for answers to your specific questions contact your Consular Section.

Questions as to whether a foreign marriage or divorce

Consular Notarial Services

Consular Services fees:

First Adult Passport: \$135

Adult Passport renewal: \$110

Minor passport renewal: \$105

Extra Passport Pages: Service no longer offered

Notary services: \$50 (note that the notary fee is *per stamp* not per document.

The Consular section has seen and increase in requests for notarial services. We would like to remind you that notarial services are offered during American citizen services hours by appointment only on Mondays and Thursdays from 1:30pm to 3:30pm.

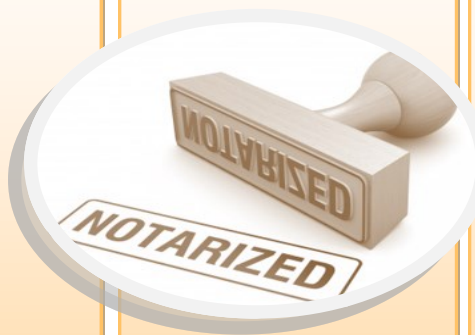
The legal definition of a notarial act is specific and often misunderstood.

Notarial acts that may be performed by notarizing officers at post include:

(1) Taking acknowledgments of signatures on doc-

uments **for use in the United States** (such as deeds, powers of attorney)

(2) Administering oaths



or affirmations to people executing affidavits

(3) In limited circumstances we can certify some documents as True Copies (**not acceptable**

in some U.S. states)

The Consular section performs notarial services for any person regardless of nationality if the document to be acknowledged, sworn to under oath, or affirmed **is for use within the United States.**

Affidavits

An affidavit allows an individual to make a statement under penalty of perjury by personally swearing to or affirming the statement.

To execute an Affidavit

- The signer must personally appear, verbally swear the oath



Minor Passport?

Don't Forget:

- For all applicants under 16, fill out the form DS-II
- **Both** parents need to be present at the time of the interview. Or you can submit a notarized DS-3055.
- The minor also must be present at the time of the interview.

Important Websites

<http://>

zw.usembassy.gov

Information on Taxes is available on

<https://www.irs.gov>

Voting information is available online at

<https://www.fvap.gov>

Information on renewing driver's licenses is available online at:

<http://www.dmv.org>

Consular Notarial Services, cont.

or affirm the truth, and sign before the notarizing officer. An oath cannot be taken on behalf of someone else, including a corporation. Oaths cannot be given over the telephone. The oath-taker must be in the physical presence of the notarizing officer.

- By taking an oath or affirmation with respect to an affidavit, a person may be subject to criminal penalties for perjury, should he or she fail to be truthful. Oaths and affirmations are therefore conducted in an official setting, with the U.S. flag on display. If possible, the affiant should stand and raise his or her right hand.
- Whenever possible, affidavits should be typed and be signed in permanent ink.
- The affiant should always sign the affidavit in the presence of the notarizing officer.

Certification of True copies of documents

Certification of public documents such as a birth, death, marriages or divorce records, is done by the Custodian of the Record.

Therefore, the only document the U.S. Embassy can certify a true copy of is a U.S. passport. Many U.S. states have eliminated the certification of true copies as a function of notaries due to concern about security and fraud.

Sworn or Affirmed Statements

An alternative to the certification of true copies is to make a sworn statement that the document presented is a true copy. An individual makes a sworn statement declaring that a copy is an exact reproduction of an original document he or she possesses.

Authentication of documents

An authentication is a certification of the genuineness of the signature and/or seal or the position of an official who has previously executed, issued, or certified a document so that a document executed or issued in one jurisdiction may be recognized in another jurisdiction. The U.S. Department of State does offer authentication or apostille services—however, these services are NOT

offered at U.S. Consulates and Embassies around the world. There is only one office in Washington, DC that can authenticate documents. The process is time consuming and there is a fee associated. Furthermore, the U.S. Department of state can NOT **authenticate or provide certified true copies of Zimbabwean issued civil documents or academic credentials, transcripts, or degrees for any use.**

For further information about the Office of Authentication please go to <https://travel.state.gov> and select the section on legal considerations.



Please join us for the July 4th Community picnic at Hoyle Field!



Independence Day Community Picnic

Saturday, July 8, 2017

Hoyle Field

(3 Tina Close, Chisipite, Harare)

Time: 12pm-3pm

What to Bring:

- Your ID (passport, embassy ID or personal ID)**
- A picnic blanket**
- A side dish or dessert to share**

Marines will hold a cash bar.

Please RSVP to CLO (cloharare@state.gov) by Monday, July 3, 2017

Include the names of people joining you and the dish you'll bring