

**Decree on diplomatic passports, service passports and
official duty passports
(832/1993)**

Upon presentation by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, by virtue of sections 19 and 22 of the Passport Act of 22 August 1986 (642/1986), be it enacted as follows:

Diplomatic passports

Section 1

A diplomatic passport shall be issued to the President of the Republic as well as to his or her spouse and minor children. A diplomatic passport shall also be issued to a former President of the Republic and to his or her spouse, widow or widower.

Section 2

(1) A diplomatic passport shall also be issued to the speaker and deputy speakers of Parliament, the members of the Government and the Chancellor of Justice, the Presidents of the Supreme Court and Supreme Administrative Court, the Archbishops of the Evangelic-Lutheran and Orthodox Churches, the commanders of the Defence Forces, as well as to former Prime Ministers and former Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

(2) Upon a written proposal by the Office of the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister's Office, a Government Ministry or the Parliamentary Office, a diplomatic passport may also be issued to a person travelling on official or other particularly important duties, where the issue of the diplomatic passport significantly facilitates the journey or the discharge of duties.

(3) The spouse of a person referred to in subsections 1 and 2 above may be issued a diplomatic passport if the two spouses travel together.

Section 3

(1) A diplomatic passport may be issued to an attaché or a foreign service officer of a comparable or higher rank and, on special grounds, to other persons working in a diplomatic post abroad.

(2) A diplomatic passport may also be issued to the spouse and minor children of a person referred to in subsection 1 above as well as to minor children for whose care he or she is responsible within the meaning of the Child Welfare Act (683/1983). Under particular circumstances, a diplomatic passport may also be issued to such children when they have not reached the age of 20.

(3) A diplomatic passport may also be issued to a former foreign service officer who has served as head of a diplomatic mission or consulate general or as secretary of state in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and to the spouse of such an officer, provided that the officer has retired from the foreign service upon reaching pensionable age as defined by law.

(4) A diplomatic passport may also be issued to the widow of the Prime Minister or Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Service passports

Section 4

(1) A service passport may be issued to foreign service officials other than those referred to in section 3 and, on special grounds, to other persons working in a diplomatic post abroad.

(2) On special grounds, a service passport may also be issued to a person employed by a person working in a diplomatic post abroad.

(3) A service passport may also be issued to the spouse and minor children of a person referred to in subsections 1 and 2 above as well as to minor children for whose care he or she is responsible within the meaning of the Child Welfare Act (683/1983). Under particular circumstances, a diplomatic passport may also be issued such children when they have not attained the age of 20.

Official duty passports

Section 5

Upon a written proposal by the Office of the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister's Office, a Government Ministry or the Parliamentary Office, an official duty passport may be issued to a person in an official position or in a position of trust travelling for official purposes, where the issue of the service passport significantly facilitates the journey.

Application for a passport and return of an expired passport

Section 6

(1) A diplomatic passport, service passport or official duty passport shall be applied for by means of a written application addressed to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The application shall be accompanied by a declaration attesting the applicant's eligibility for a passport and by two photographs from which the applicant is easily recognisable.

(2) In cases referred to in section 2, subsections 2 and 3; section 4, subsection 2; and section 5 above, the issue of a passport is subject to the condition that the applicant is a holder of a personal passport referred to in section 3 of the Passport Act (642/1986), which shall be deposited with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for the period of time during which the diplomatic, service or official duty passport is used.

(3) Once the diplomatic, service or official duty passport expires or when the holder of the passport leaves his or her duties or is otherwise no longer eligible for the passport, it shall be returned to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Withdrawal

Section 7

A diplomatic, service or official duty passport may be withdrawn and taken away as provided for in sections 14 to 17 of the Passport Act (642/1986) and when the passport holder leaves his or her duties or is otherwise no longer eligible for the passport. The decision on the withdrawal of the passport shall be made by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Miscellaneous provisions

Section 8

For the purposes of this Decree, “spouses” shall also mean common law spouses where it is shown that the persons concerned have lived together in conditions comparable with marriage for at least three years.

Section 9

The models for diplomatic, service and official duty passports shall be established by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Section 10

Apart from the provisions of this Decree, the provisions of the Passport Act (642/1986) shall apply where appropriate.

Section 11

The fees charged for diplomatic, service and official duty passports shall be decided by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Section 12

More detailed provisions on the application and implementation of this Decree shall be given by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Section 13

This Decree enters into force on 1 November 1993.

This Decree repeals the Decree of 14 November 1986 on diplomatic passports and service passports (877/1986) as amended.

