

Permission from one parent for minors travelling abroad

Question:

Sometimes the airport employees ask me whether I have permission for my children travel abroad from their father. Is it legal? My children and me have Cypriot passports, the father of the children does not have any objections regarding travelling to Russia, we are not divorced; he just does not want to go with us. (14/07/2014)

Response:

A child departing from Cyprus and other countries, travelling only with one parent, must have a written and notarized permission to travel letter from the other parent, or legal guardian, to enter many countries, even on a cruise ship shore excursion.

You should always make sure that you carry with you the proper identification for yourself and any children travelling with you. The requirement for an Affidavit for children travelling outside their home country is due to the enhanced awareness of children's rights raised by the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. This Treaty was created to deter international child abductions and is in force between Cyprus and 76 other countries and territories.

In addition, there is always the possibility that the one of the parents could leave the territory of the Republic of Cyprus and take with him any of his children under the age of 18, without the consent of the other parent. This would result, to the interference of the legal rights of the other parent and of the child itself. Although the airport authorities may not ask you to present a written consent (affidavit) from the other parent, if however they do request the same, you must be able to present such document, in order to avoid any inconvenience.

In an era of heightened global security, many foreign countries are revising their visa procedures and travel documents for minors. Such concerns apply not only to air and land travel, but to cruise travel as well.

Our advice to all the readers is always have in your possession an Affidavit notarized at a District Court signed by the other parent, with which he/she will provide his consent to you to travel abroad with any of your minor children.