

THE PASSPORT ACT

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

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## THE PASSPORT ACT

[30th May, 1935.]

Cap. 282.  
Law  
16 of 1962.  
Act  
8 of 1979.

1. This Act may be cited as the Passport Act. Short title.
2. In this Act—
- “Jamaican passport” means a passport issued under this Act to a citizen of Jamaica; Interpre-  
tation.  
16/1962  
S. 2.
- “officer” means any person appointed by the Governor-General under section 8;
- “overseas representative” means a diplomatic or consular representative of the Government of Jamaica in any other country; and includes a High Commissioner or a Trade Commissioner of Jamaica in any other country.
- 3.—(1) The Minister may, in his discretion, issue passports in Jamaica to citizens of Jamaica, and any such passport may be cancelled by the Minister and the passport shall thereupon become void. Issue and  
renewal of  
passports  
and grant  
of visas.  
16/1962  
S. 2.
- (2) The Minister may, in his discretion, renew and endorse Jamaican passports and grant visas on any passports requiring Jamaican visas.
- (3) Any such renewal, endorsement or visa made or granted pursuant to this Act may be cancelled by the Minister, and thereupon the renewal, endorsement or visa shall be void.
4. The Minister may, in his discretion, issue—
- (a) permits to leave the Island to persons who are not citizens of Jamaica; and
- (b) certificates of identity or other travel documents, in such form as may be prescribed and may likewise cancel Power to  
issue per-  
mits and  
certificates  
of identity.  
16/1962  
S. 2.

any permits, certificates of identity or travel documents so issued.

Exercise  
of powers  
of Minister.  
16/1962  
S. 2.

5. Anything authorized under sections 3 and 4 to be done by the Minister may also be done by any officer or officers authorized in that behalf by the Minister.

Validity of  
passports.  
16/1962  
S. 2.

6.—(1) The validity of any Jamaican passport may be restricted to any specified country or countries as the Minister thinks fit.

8/1979  
S. 2.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act and of any regulations made thereunder, every Jamaican passport shall be valid for a period of ten years from the date of issue thereof.

(3) Where the Minister cancels a passport pursuant to section 3 (1) or cancels any other travel document pursuant to section 4, he may require, in writing, the holder of such passport or other travel document to return it forthwith to the Minister or to any officer authorized by the Minister in that behalf and it shall be the duty of such holder to comply with such requirement.

Minister  
may  
authorize  
issue of  
passports  
by repre-  
sentatives  
overseas.  
16/1962  
S. 2.

7.—(1) The Minister may from time to time, by writing under his hand authorize any overseas representative in any other country to exercise in that country all or any of the functions that the Minister is authorized by this Act to exercise in Jamaica, and in every such case the provisions of this Act shall, so far as they are applicable and with necessary modifications, apply accordingly.

(2) In the exercise of any such powers or functions every overseas representative shall act in accordance with all the directions, general or special, given to him by the Minister.

(3) Any authority or directions under this section may be given to a specified person or to persons of a

specified class, or may be given to the holder or holders for the time being of a specified office or appointment or class of offices or appointments.

8.—(1) The Governor-General shall appoint a Passport Officer and such other officers as may be necessary for the purposes of this Act.

Appointment of  
Passport  
Officer, etc.  
16/1962  
S. 2.

(2) Subject to this Act and to the directions of the Minister it shall be the duty of such officers to carry out the provisions of this Act and all regulations made thereunder.

9. Such fees as may be prescribed shall be payable in respect of the issue of Jamaican passports and in respect of any other matters arising out of this Act.

Fees.  
16/1962  
S. 2.

10. The Minister may make regulations for carrying into effect the provisions of this Act and for prescribing fees to be paid thereunder.

Power to  
make  
regulations.  
16/1962  
S. 3.

11.—(1) Every person who shall act in contravention of, or shall fail to comply with, any of the provisions of this Act or of any order made or condition or requirement imposed thereunder or shall contravene any regulation made thereunder shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

Offences.

(2) Every person who, in respect of any passport, shall—

- (a) alter or tamper with the same;
- (b) be found in unlawful possession thereof;
- (c) on finding the same neglect or fail, within seven days of the finding thereof, to send such passport to the Passport Officer or to the officer in charge at the nearest police station;
- (d) by personation or false representation hold himself out as the rightful possessor thereof;

16/1962  
S. 4.

- 3
- (e) by personation or false representation procure or obtain or attempt to procure or obtain the issue of the same to himself or to any person;
  - (f) part with the possession of the same to another person without lawful authority or for an unlawful purpose;
  - (g) destroy, make away with or, by wilful neglect, allow any person to obtain possession of the same;
  - (h) without having actual personal knowledge of the applicant for a passport, make any declaration verifying the declaration of such applicant, or vouching the fitness of such applicant to receive a passport or make any such declaration merely on information obtained from the applicant or from any other person;
  - (i) fail or refuse to comply with any requirement under section 6 (3),
- shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

8/1979  
S. 3 (b).

(3) Every person who shall aid or abet any person in the commission of any offence against this Act, or shall harbour any person whom he knows or has reasonable ground for believing to have committed an offence against this Act, shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

Penalties.

12. Every person who is guilty of an offence against this Act shall be liable on summary conviction before a Resident Magistrate, to imprisonment with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding one year, or to a fine not exceeding two hundred dollars, and in default of payment thereof to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding one year or until such fine be sooner paid, or to both such imprisonment and fine.