

Published based on [Keeping Your U.S. Passport Out Of Bad Hands](#)

# Keeping Your U.S. Passport Out Of Bad Hands

Everyone who has ever been on a trip knows that its very rarely that everything goes according to plan. And unfortunately, many travelers find themselves with missing or [stolen American passports](#). If this person is you, there is help. There are things to do that can get you a new passport fast, and once you get this new passport, you can get back to your vacation with as few issues as possible.

First, relax. Its easy to get panicked when you realize you cant find your passport. Anyone would. However, panicking will not help you. So relax and take a deep breath. There is a solution.

Once youve gathered your thoughts, contact the closest US embassy. Do not wait on this. Passports provide criminals with way too many opportunities, meaning you could be in serious danger. A passport is a key tool of identity theft, and with this problem growing every year, you could become just another victim. With your passport in someone elses hands, you will need to act fast.

You will need to talk to someone from the American Citizens Service department of the Consular Section when you reach the embassy. The first thing they will do is invalidate your stolenpassport, meaning no one can use it. Next, they will let you know what exactly to do in order to go about getting your new [new passports](#) and the necessary photos.

Report the theft to the local authorities, if applicable. They will file a report that only further ensures that your passport stays out of the wrong persons hands. These reports are useful if you suspect your identitys been stolen, as they are required by the embassy to issue reports.

Make sure to give all the necessary information to the embassy that they will need in order to confirm your identity. This information includes but is not limited to your name, place and date of birth, where and when your passport was issued, as well as the passport number. Be sure to write down this information and keep it in a safe place. Having this information at the ready can drastically facilitate getting a new passport, meaning you will get your new passport quickly. Also, if your passport goes missing and you apply for another, contact someone in the United States. Make sure they know you will be delayed and that they may be contacted in order to help confirm your identity.

In order to protect your passport, along with your money and other important items, you might think about investing in a little purse or a money belt to wear beneath your clothes. Thieves who are looking to commit a crime will most likely target those who have their passport within reach. So by keeping yours hidden, you drastically reduce the risk of theft.

Lindsay Lohan, everyones favorite tabloid cover girl, was recently in the news claiming that her passport was stolen in France. She was unable to get back to Beverly Hills for her DUI case and she also missed some of her mandatory Alcohol Education courses. Despite the validity of her excuse, she was able to get a new passport and get home quickly. While you may go your entire life without having to deal with a [stolen American passport](#), simply being prepared and armed with this knowledge can help keep your passport safe. It can honestly happen to anyone, but those who are prepared ultimately fare better.

You can also find this article published on [Keeping Your U.S. Passport Out Of Bad Hands](#)