

## **Immigrant Experience: Travelers to Mexico will need a passport**

San Jose Mercury News (California)

November 26, 2006 Sunday

Copyright 2006 San Jose Mercury News All Rights Reserved

**The Mercury News**

Found on BayArea.com

**Section:** B; Pg. 3

**Length:** 509 words

**Byline:** Jessie Mangaliman, Mercury News

### **Body**

---

Q My mother is ailing and I might **need** to go to **Mexico** soon. I am an American citizen and I have my naturalization certificate. I've heard that now I am required to have a current **passport** in order to re-enter the United States. Is it true?

Manny MezaSan Jose

A As part of the government's recent efforts to secure U.S. borders and to beef up national security, changes **will** soon be in place for travel documents required of U.S. citizens. It used to be that U.S. citizens were able to cross into **Mexico** or Canada, and re-enter the United States with just a driver's license.

But it's a different time. The straight answer to your question is yes, you **will need** a U.S. **passport** if you're flying into **Mexico**. It's fairly simple to get a U.S. **passport**.

Visit the U.S. Department of State for detailed information: [http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html), or make an appointment at the San Francisco office of the **Passport** Agency to apply in person: [http://travel.state.gov/passport/about/agencies/agencies\\_900.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/about/agencies/agencies_900.html).

This is what the U.S. Department of State says on its Web site about the changes: ``In January 2007, ALL persons, including U.S. citizens, traveling by air between the United States and Canada, **Mexico**, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda **will** be required to present a valid **passport**, Air NEXUS card, or U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Document.

``As early as January 1, 2008, ALL persons, including U.S. citizens, traveling between the U.S. and Canada, **Mexico**, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda by land or sea (including ferries), may be required to present a valid **passport** or other documents as determined by the Department of Homeland Security. While recent legislative changes permit a later deadline, the Departments of State and Homeland Security are working to meet all requirements as soon as possible. Ample advance notice **will** be provided to enable the public to obtain **passports** or **passport** cards for land/sea entries."

Citizenship informational workshop: The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has scheduled ``Overview of Naturalization," a workshop on how to complete the application for U.S. citizenship.

## Immigrant Experience: Travelers to Mexico will need a passport

The workshop will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday at John XXIII Multi-Service Center, 195 E. San Fernando St., San Jose.

Although the workshop is free, the public is asked to confirm attendance by calling the reservation line: (408) 918-3986.

*This information is not intended as legal advice. Any person with questions about his or her individual circumstances should contact an immigration lawyer, a state-bonded immigration expert or a federally accredited immigration representative, and should not rely on general statements made in this column.*

Send your questions to [immigration@mercurynews.com](mailto:immigration@mercurynews.com) or fax us at (408) 288-8060. You can also write to us at: **Immigrant Experience**, San Jose Mercury News, Newsroom, 750 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, Calif. 95190. To have a question considered, you MUST include your name, city of residence and daytime phone number.

## Classification

---

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** **PASSPORTS** & VISAS (96%); CITIZENSHIP (90%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (90%); STATE DEPARTMENTS & FOREIGN SERVICES (90%); IMMIGRATION (89%); NATIONAL SECURITY (89%); BORDER CONTROL (76%); LICENSES & PERMITS (74%); ACCREDITATION (73%); SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE FORCES (71%); LAWYERS (60%)

**Organization:** US DEPARTMENT OF STATE (83%)

**Industry:** WEBSITES (67%); LAWYERS (60%)

**Geographic:** SAN JOSE, CA, USA (72%); UNITED STATES (99%); **MEXICO** (94%); CANADA (93%); NORTH AMERICA (93%); BERMUDA (92%); SOUTH AMERICA (92%); CARIBBEAN ISLANDS (90%)

**Load-Date:** November 26, 2006