



## Children Travelling Alone Factsheet

With a long summer holiday ahead of us some of you may be thinking about your children spending time away with relatives.

If your children will be travelling alone this summer the advice below may be useful....

### **Unaccompanied Minors**

Where airlines provide this service, children flying alone are called 'Unaccompanied Minors'. Each airline sets its own rules and regulations for them – ages, prices and routes allowed (especially if connecting flights are necessary) are variable – so it is important to thoroughly research the airline and destination you are planning to use.

The service works in a similar way throughout most airlines. Usually you will have to book a separate ticket, sometimes online and sometimes through the airline's offices. You will also have to fill out extra paperwork to include all information the airline needs to know about the child, as well as information about the parents and whoever is collecting the child at the final destination.

### **Children aged 5 – 12 years:**

For most airlines children aged between 5 and 12 years old (15 for some airlines e.g. Emirates and Virgin Atlantic) can fly alone using the airline's Unaccompanied Minor Service. Usually an adult fare must be paid.

In some cases a member of staff will escort your child from check in to the plane whereas for others a pass can be given to a parent so they can escort the child to security or even right through to the departure gate. Once onboard the service ensures the staff will take care of your child during the flight.

On arrival your child will be escorted to a parent or guardian waiting to collect them (ID will be required).

### **Children aged 12 and above:**

Children over 12 (15 for some airlines) can travel alone but the Unaccompanied Minor Service is available for an extra charge.



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#### Other points to note:

- If your child requires medication ensure the airline is informed and they carry a note from their GP stating what medication they are taking and why. Ensure they carry important documents and medication in their hand luggage.
- Ensure emergency contact details are completed in the back cover of your child's passport and make sure your child has your full contact details and an itinerary of their journey.
- If your child is travelling with an accompanying adult who is not a parent, the child should travel with a letter of consent from the parent(s) naming the accompanying adult.
- Ensure your child has copies of their parents, the person collecting them and any accompanying adult's passports and contact numbers.
- If your children are old enough to travel with friends alone do they know the process if they lose their passport? <https://www.passport.service.gov.uk/filter/overseas>
- Ensure your children have appropriate insurance cover for their trip.

#### For more information:

- Detailed advice for travelling abroad: <https://travelaware.campaign.gov.uk/>
- Foreign travel checklist: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/foreign-travel-checklist>
- FCO travel advice: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

**NB: as stated above every airline's rules differ slightly so it is important to contact the airline directly for further information**

