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It seems as though people can do just about anything on the Internet. They can buy a new car, order dinner, find a movie to watch and even get an [online U.S. passport](#) if the need arises. This cuts down on the need to stand in line at the Post Office or set up appointments to go virtually anywhere.

The traditional method of obtaining a passport entailed making a visit to a U.S. Post Office or Passport Agency. Today, people have the option to use an online service provider to obtain a passport. These services also offer quicker processing turnaround than the four to eight weeks required by the government. The ease and speed offered by these service providers make them a very attractive alternative.

These independent processing companies charge an additional fee, but they also offer people the option to obtain a passport within one to two business days. This is a blessing for anyone who needs a passport within a shorter processing timeframe than that offered by the federal government. The independent companies have well-established relationships with the relevant government agencies so they are able to expedite the passport process with ease.

Access to a printer will be necessary as there are forms that must be printed out and completed to be sent in to the provider. These will consist of the proper governmental application form for the individual along with an order form for the provider. The order form simply lets them know exactly what type of [online passport](#) is being applied for and for whom.

Proof of identity will also need to be provided in the form of a copy of the individuals birth certificate. The birth certificate must be one from the city, county or state of birth and must be accompanied by that entities seal. Ones without the seal and certified copies are not accepted by any of the service providers, nor the issuing agency.

Copies of additional forms of identification such as a drivers license or state ID card will also be required. These must have been issued at least six months prior to the passport application date. The additional forms of identification that are required are listed on the providers Web site.

The applicant will need to supply two identical color photos to the processing company. These photos must meet certain size and format specifications so read the requirements on the providers Web site prior to having the photos taken. Many pharmacies offer passport photo services so do not spend the extra money on a professional photographer unless necessary.

Once the application, documentation, and photos have been compiled, they should be packaged together and sent to the passport processing company. The package should be sent via a traceable method so that the applicant can make sure it arrives safely at the processing companys location. Taking all of these steps will make the [online US passport](#) application process relatively quick and painless. The applicant will have a new passport and be ready to make travel plans, which also can be done from the comfort of home.

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