



## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 12781]

### 30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Affidavit of Identifying Witness

**ACTION:** Notice of request for public comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of State has submitted the information collection described below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we are requesting comments on this collection from all interested individuals and organizations. The purpose of this Notice is to allow 30 days for public comment.

**DATES:** The Department will accept comments from the public up to **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to:

[www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review - Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function. You must include the DS form number, information collection title, and the OMB control number in any correspondence (if applicable). You may send requests for additional information regarding the collection listed in this notice, including requests for copies of the proposed collection instrument and supporting documents, to the following email address: [Passport-Form-Comments@State.gov](mailto:Passport-Form-Comments@State.gov). You must include the DS form number and information collection title in the email subject line.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- *Title of Information Collection:* Affidavit of Identifying Witness
- *OMB Control Number:* 1405-0088
- *Type of Request:* Revision of a Currently Approved Collection

- Originating Office: Bureau of Consular Affairs, Passport Services, Office of Program Management and Operational Support (CA/PPT/S/PMO)
- Form Number: DS-71
- Respondents: Individuals
- Estimated Number of Respondents: 44,340
- Estimated Number of Responses: 44,340
- Average Time Per Response: 5 minutes
- Total Estimated Burden Time: 3,695 hours
- Frequency: On Occasion
- Obligation to Respond: Required to Obtain a Benefit

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department to:

- Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department.
- Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
- Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please note that comments submitted in response to this Notice are public record. Before including any detailed personal information, you should be aware that your comments as submitted, including your personal information, will be available for public review.

### **Abstract of Proposed Collection**

The Affidavit of Identifying Witness is submitted in conjunction with an application for a U.S. passport. It is used by Passport Agents, Passport Acceptance Agents, and Consular Officers to collect information for the purpose of establishing the identity of the

applicant. This affidavit is completed by the identifying witness when the applicant is unable to establish his/her identity to the satisfaction of a person authorized to accept passport applications.

### **Methodology**

The Affidavit of Identifying Witness is submitted in conjunction with an application for a U.S. passport. Due to legislative mandates, the DS-71 form is only available at acceptance facilities, passport agencies, and U.S. embassies and consulates. This form must be completed and signed in the presence of an authorized Passport Agent, Passport Acceptance Agent, or Consular Officer.

**Amanda E Smith,**

*Managing Director for Passport Support Operations,*

*Bureau of Consular Affairs, Passport Services,*

*Department of State.*

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