



**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)
ON THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE BALIKBAYAN PRIVILEGE EFFECTIVE 07
DECEMBER 2020**

Question	Answer
<p><i>1. Are foreign spouses and children of Filipino nationals who are not traveling with their Filipino spouses and/or children still allowed entry so long as they apply for the appropriate Philippine visa?</i></p>	<p>Yes. Foreign spouses and minor children not traveling with the Filipino principal will be allowed entry to the Philippines as long as they obtain visas, pursuant to FSC 36-2020 and FSC 42-2020. <u>The Filipino principal should be in the Philippines.</u></p>
<p><i>2. Are foreign spouses and children who have no visa-free privileges still required to apply for visas even if they are traveling with their Filipino spouse or parent?</i></p>	<p>Yes. Foreign spouses and children who are not visa-free under E.O. 408 should obtain visas even if they are traveling with the Filipino principal. For the list of E.O. 408 visa-free countries, refer to the answer to question number 9 of this FAQ.</p>
<p><i>3. Are foreign minor children of Filipino nationals who will rejoin their Filipino parents in the Philippines required to apply for visas, as opposed to adult foreign children traveling with their Filipino parents but are no longer required to apply for visas?</i></p>	<p>Yes. Foreign minor children rejoining their Filipino parents in the Philippines need to obtain visas prior to their travel into the country.</p> <p>Adult foreign children, on the other hand, traveling with their Filipino parents may enter visa-free if they are eligible under EO 408.</p>
<p><i>4. How long can the balikbayan and their foreign legal spouse and children stay in the Philippines?</i></p>	<p>They shall be admitted with one-year validity of stay from the date of arrival.</p>
<p><i>5. Do foreign children of Filipino parents refer to unmarried children only? Or does it also cover married children?</i></p>	<p>Balikbayan privileges cover both married and unmarried foreign children of Filipinos or former Filipinos.</p>
<p><i>6. For balikbayans who are unable to present old Philippine passports or birth certificates, will they be allowed entry just by showing in their foreign passport that their place of birth is the Philippines?</i></p>	<p>They shall be asked to present the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Copy of previously issued or expired PH Passport 2) Copy of birth certificate 3) Previous immigration arrival stamp with Balikbayan status



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<p><i>7. Do marriage certificates and birth certificates issued by foreign governments need to be apostillized or authenticated?</i></p>	<p>Yes. Documentary proof issued by foreign governments needs to be apostillized or authenticated as previously requested by the BI.</p> <p>For marriage certificates and birth certificates issued by the Singapore government, they must first be authenticated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore before they can be authenticated by the Philippine Embassy.</p> <p>To secure an appointment for authentication, send email to notarials2020.sgpe@gmail.com.</p>
<p><i>8. For those who are dual citizens by birth (e.g. born in the US to Filipino parents), are they considered balikbayans and would therefore only need to present a copy of their Report of Birth (ROB) to be allowed entry? Will the Bureau of Immigration accept the ROB as proof of Filipino citizenship?</i></p>	<p>The BI requires the presentation of the Identification Certificate, valid Philippine Passport, or Certificate of Re-acquisition and Retention from dual citizens, per its SBM-2014-045 dated 30 September 2014.</p> <p>Children who are dual citizens may be issued a travel document with the Report of Birth as an attachment.</p> <p>They should present a Philippine passport upon exit from the country.</p>
<p><i>9) What are the countries that are granted the visa-free privilege under E.O. 408?</i></p>	<p>Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria</p> <p>Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi</p> <p>Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Congo (Democratic Republic), Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic</p> <p>Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic</p> <p>Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France</p>



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	<p>Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Guyana</p> <p>Haiti, Honduras, Hungary</p> <p>Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy</p> <p>Jamaica, Japan</p> <p>Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan</p> <p>Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg</p> <p>Madagascar, Malaysia, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar</p> <p>Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway</p> <p>Oman</p> <p>Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal</p> <p>Qatar</p> <p>Romania, Russia, Rwanda</p> <p>Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland</p> <p>Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu</p> <p>Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States</p>
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	of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan Vanuatu, Vatican, Venezuela, Vietnam Zambia, Zimbabwe
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For other visa-related queries, email consular.sgpe@gmail.com.