

Instructions and Appointment Packets

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Police Certificates

If you are 16 years of age or older, you must submit a photocopy of a police certificate from the following locations:

From your...	If you were...	And resided there...
Country of nationality	At least 16 years of age	At least 6 months
Country of residence	At least 16 years of age	At least 6 months
Country of previous residence	At least 16 years of age	At least 1 year
Any country where you were arrested	Any age	For any timeframe

You must send a photocopy of your police certificate(s) to the NVC.

You must submit a photocopy of your police certificate(s) to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate at the time of your interview.

Note: Present and former residents of the United States do NOT need to submit any U.S. police certificates.

Important: *Police certificates expire after one year, unless the certificate was issued from your country of previous residence*

*and you have not returned there since the police certificate was issued. If at the time of your interview the following three items are **all** true, you must bring a new police certificate to your visa interview:*

You are more than 16 years old;

The police certificate submitted to NVC was obtained more than one year ago; and

You still live in the country that issued the certificate.

For country-specific guidelines on how to obtain a police certificate, review the Country Documents section at [Reciprocity by Country](#).

Unobtainable police certificates

If your police certificate is unavailable per the country-specific guidelines above, you do not need to submit one to the NVC. If you cannot obtain a police certificate for another reason, please submit a written explanation when you submit your other documents.