

# K1 Visa Process – Saudi Arabia

This guide is based on my personal experience going through the K1 visa process in the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh. I hope it helps others navigate the process more easily.

**Note:** This guide is written from the perspective of the beneficiary (the person in Saudi Arabia applying for the visa), not the petitioner. It focuses only on the parts of the K1 visa process that are specific to Saudi Arabia. This is solely based on my experience. Please do not rely on it as your only guide and always double-check official sources. I documented this process in 2024, so some details may be outdated.

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**Telegram Group:** Join this important Telegram group, which was a valuable resource during my K1 visa process. It's dedicated to the immigrant visa process at the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh: <https://t.me/+yfc4n-AMfSEyIMx>

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## Case Received by the Embassy:

The first step after receiving your NOA2 is when your case is transferred to the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh. Once your case arrives, the petitioner should receive an email notification.

Our email arrived in about a week, but it may take more or less time for you. If you don't receive anything after two weeks, I recommend emailing the embassy in Riyadh ([follow the email format below](#)).

Once I received the email, I immediately started working on DS-160, as it will be needed to schedule your interview.

Note: Some countries receive a packet with instructions for the next steps, but this was not the case for me or the embassy in Riyadh.

## Scheduling the Interview

- Use the U.S. Travel Docs website to book your appointment:  
<https://www.ustraveldocs.com/>
  - Interview slots typically open at the end of each month for the following month.
    - Example: Slots for September opened on August 29 around 11 AM.
  - Therefore, Monitor the website closely toward the end of the month during working hours.
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## Police Clearance Certificate (PCC)

You can obtain the report through Absher or from a local police station. I did both to be safe.

### Option 1: Using Absher

1. Log into Absher:
  - Go to My Services > General Services > ABSHER Reports > Request a Report > Criminal Records Report (50 SR)
  - The report should be generated within minutes.
2. Authenticate the Report:
  - Schedule an appointment with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) online for document authentication ("تصديق وثائق") and pay the required fees online.
  - Take the Absher Police Clearance to the appointment, along with an ID.

### Option 2: Through a Police Station (If you don't have an Absher Account)

This process is based on instructions received from the U.S. Embassy via email. [Click here for full email as received from the embassy](#)

In order to obtain a Police Clearance Certificate from your local police station, you must first acquire a letter from the U.S. Embassy requesting a police report from the police station on your behalf. We will refer to this as the Police Clearance Request Letter.

For this process, you'll need two MOFA visits: one to authenticate the Request Letter, and another for the Police Clearance Report.

**Note:** When looking for information on the Police Clearance Certificate in the **telegram** group, use the term **PCC**.

### 1. Getting the Police Clearance Request Letter from the U.S. Embassy:

- For Applicants in Riyadh Area: The embassy will issue the Police Clearance Request Letter via SMSA (paid on delivery). You cannot obtain it in person at the embassy. You must email the embassy to request the letter ([click here for email format](#))
- For Applicants in Dhahran or Jeddah: You can Request the letter via SMSA ([click here for email format](#)) or schedule a notarial appointment with the U.S. embassy through [evisaforms.state.gov](https://evisaforms.state.gov).

### 2. Authenticate Letter with the ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA):

- Schedule an appointment with MOFA for authentication "تصديق وثائق", online. And pay the fee.
- Bring the letter and an ID to your appointment. ([MOFA address in Riyadh](#))

### 3. Getting the Police Clearance From the Police Station.

- After MOFA authentication, take the letter to your local Criminal Investigations Police Department ("الشرطة الجنائية") to get the Police Clearance Certificate ("شهادة خلو سوابق").
- **Note:** If you are not a Saudi citizen, please consult the telegram group for where to get the clearance from.

#### **4. Authenticate the Police Clearance with MOFA:**

- Once you have the Police Clearance Certificate, schedule another appointment with MOFA for authentication.
- Bring the PCC and your ID to this appointment.

## **Medical Examination**

**IMPORTANT: Keep a copy of your vaccination records to bring with you to the U.S., as you'll need them for your green card application later on.**

To complete your medical examination, you must first schedule your visa interview.

Before we get into the steps, note that some vaccines—like Hepatitis B—require multiple doses over several months. As a K1 visa applicant, you can get the first dose in Saudi Arabia and complete the rest in the U.S.

1. Find an embassy approved hospital by checking the embassy website:  
[https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/Supplements/Supplements\\_by\\_Post/RID-Riyadh.html#medical\\_exam\\_instructions](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/Supplements/Supplements_by_Post/RID-Riyadh.html#medical_exam_instructions)
2. Call the hospital and ask them the following:
  - a. What documents to bring with you?
  - b. If you need to book an appointment or if you can walk-in?
  - c. What's the COVID vaccination requirement?

In my case, I went to Al Olaya Medical Center in Riyadh, which only accepted walk-ins during specific hours. I was told I needed a COVID booster due to my vaccination history, which I took at a public hospital before my appointment.

## The Interview (My Experience)

- I arrived 15 minutes early, but I recommend giving yourself more time — parking near the embassy was hectic. (See the Telegram group for parking spaces around the embassy)
- When I got there, we had to wait outside the embassy for about 15 minutes. Once the windows opened, we were asked to hand in all our belongings, including phones. You're only allowed to bring in your documents.
- After that, we formed a line where they asked for our passport and appointment confirmation. Then we were led inside to go through security, and after that, directed to the interview building and waiting area.
- Be prepared to wait a long time. My appointment was at 12:30 PM, and I didn't leave the embassy until 4 PM.
- First, I was called to the window to submit documents. From what I remember, I was asked for:
  - Original birth certificate
  - Translated birth certificate
  - Police clearance report
  - Medical examination results
  - Evidence of relationship (Photos with my fiancé)
- After submitting those, I was told to go back to the waiting area until I was called again for the actual interview.
- When it was finally my turn, the interviewer asked me to take an oath to tell the truth, then asked the following questions:
  - My fiancé's full name, where he lives, and what he does for a living.
  - How and when we met
  - When and where we last saw each other
  - What my family thinks of him
  - Our plans for the wedding
- The questions felt very tailored to my situation — nothing tricky or surprising.

- At the end, the interviewer took my passport and told me I was approved, and to expect my passport back soon.

## **After the Interview:**

While waiting, you can track your case using this [website](#) or by downloading this [app](#).

I received my visa 3 weeks after the interview.

Once your passport is ready, you should get a text from Aramex. While other visa types often use SMSA, most K1 applicants (myself included) received theirs through Aramex.

## How to Email the Embassy

To email the embassy with any question, you must follow a specific format—otherwise, your message may end up in their junk folder. Also, from my experience, the embassy was really backed up and slow to reply—most of my emails didn't even get a response, so don't take it personal.

Email them at [RiyadhIV@state.gov](mailto:RiyadhIV@state.gov), following this format:

**SUBJECT:** M99 - OTHER QUESTIONS - [Case Number]

**BODY:**

- Last Name:
- First Name:
- Case Number:
- Interview Date (if scheduled):

[YOUR EMAIL HERE] |

[Source: <https://sa.usembassy.gov/visa-navigator-en/>]

## How to Request Police Clearance Request Letter

Request the letter via SMSA by emailing [RiyadhIV@state.gov](mailto:RiyadhIV@state.gov) using the following format (see attached image):

**SUBJECT:** M99 - Police Clearance Request Letter - [Case Number]

**BODY:**

- Last Name:
- First Name:
- Case Number:
- Interview Date (if scheduled):

Hello,

I would like to request a Police Clearance Request Letter.

- Case Number:
- English spelling of your name (as it appears in your passport):
- Phone Number:
- City where you live:

**[Attach a copy of your iqama/National ID]**

## Email from the U.S. Embassy with instructions for obtaining a police clearance request letter

Below is the exact email I received from the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh regarding the police clearance process. Please refer to it for the precise wording and instructions.

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Email from: RiyadhIV@state.gov

Subject: Police Clearance Instructions

Greetings,

Regarding the police letter. Please follow the instructions below:

If you have a Saudi Iqama, you may obtain the police record via your Absher account.

Please follow the steps below:

- Log into your Absher account
- Go to Appointments
- Choose Public Security
- Click on Proceed to Service
- Click on Book New Appointment
- Select Criminal Record
- Select your region
- Select your preferred Branch and date

If you do not have an Absher account or are unable to obtain the police record using Absher, the U.S. Embassy or Consulate nearest you provides police clearance request letters.

If you reside in the U.S. Embassy RIYADH district:

The U.S. Embassy in Riyadh provides police clearance request letters via SMSA courier service, at your expense. To pay cash on delivery for shipping of a police

clearance request letter, please send an email to RiyadhIV@state.gov and include the following:

- Your immigrant visa case number
- The English spelling of your name on your passport
- Your Saudi mobile number
- The Saudi city where you live
- A copy of your iqama

Please note, if you schedule a notarial or other ACS appointment in Riyadh in order to obtain a police clearance or other Immigrant Visa service, you may be denied service at the window.

If you reside in the districts of Consulate General Dhahran or Consulate General Jeddah:

You may request a letter be sent to you via SMSA per the instructions above for Riyadh area residents. Alternatively, you may schedule an appointment to obtain a police clearance letter from the consulates using their notarial services:

Dhahran – Sunday to Thursday, 1:00–3:30 PM

Jeddah – Sunday to Thursday, 1:00–3:00 PM

Appointment link: [evisaforms.state.gov](https://evisaforms.state.gov)

Sincerely,

Immigrant Visa Unit

U.S. Embassy Riyadh

RiyadhIV@state.gov