

New baby — the document list

The paperwork nobody hands you at the hospital. Most of it has a window, and the windows are short.

IN THE FIRST WEEKS

- ☐ Birth certificate — order certified copies, more than one
Schools, passports and benefits all want a certified copy, and none of them give it back.
- ☐ The child’s national ID number
US: a Social Security number, usually offered on the birth-registration form. India: Aadhaar enrolment for the child.
- ☐ Add the baby to health insurance
This is the one with a real deadline — commonly 30 to 60 days from birth. Miss it and you may wait for the next enrolment period.

BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

- ☐ Passport for the child
US: 5 years for under-16, and both parents must appear. India: 5 years or until 18, with both parents' passports and Annexure D.
- ☐ Visa or OCI, if the child holds a different nationality from yours

KEEP FROM DAY ONE

- ☐ The immunisation record — every school will ask for it
- ☐ Hospital discharge summary and the newborn screening result

WHILE YOU ARE AT IT

- ☐ Add the child to your own records — insurance, benefits, employer
- ☐ Name a guardian, and write down who can act for the child

This is a document checklist, not legal advice. Deadlines and documents vary by state and by insurer — confirm with yours.

ssa.gov/number-card; travel.state.gov passport (minors); passportindia.gov.in minors + Annexure D; uidai.gov.in (accessed 2026-06-26)