

### Information on Foreign Minors (below 15) Travelling to the Philippines Unaccompanied by Parent/s

As a rule, minors who are under 15 years of age and unaccompanied by a parent, or not joining a parent to the Philippines, are generally excluded from entering the Philippine ports of entry. This includes children who arrive individually or in groups.

However, the following are two (2) new procedures instituted by the Bureau of Immigration on the Waiver of Exclusion Ground, which may now be applied BEFORE or UPON ARRIVAL:

#### **I. TO AVOID EXCLUSION BEFORE ARRIVAL AT PHILIPPINE PORTS:**

1. The minor's guardian or legal representative shall, at least 72 hours before arrival in the Philippines, notify the Commissioner of Immigration in writing of the intent to travel to the Philippines.
2. The letter of intent shall include a request for the minor's waiver of exclusion and the relinquishment of exclusion fees. Copies of the minor's valid passport, visa (if required), return ticket and invitation from a parent or sponsoring entity shall also be attached.
3. Finding merit in the request, the Commissioner of Immigration shall issue an Order that waives the exclusion fees, otherwise, a waiver fee of Three Thousand One Hundred Twenty Pesos (P3,120.00) shall be imposed. The minor's guardian or legal representative shall be given copies of this Order.
4. The Commissioner of Immigration shall send a copy of the Order to the Immigration Duty Supervisors at the port of entry. This Order shall waive the minor's exclusion and, if allowed, also the fees' waiver.

#### **II. TO AVOID THE EXCLUSION OF MINORS WHO, WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE TO THE COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION, ARRIVE AT PHILIPPINE PORTS:**

1. The minor's guardian or legal representative presents copies of the minor's passport and attaches these to filled-out Waiver of Exclusion (WE) forms obtained from the Immigration Duty Supervisors.
2. After determining that the filled-out Waiver of Exclusion forms are in order, the Immigration Duty Supervisors shall note "Approved for Payment" and direct the minor's guardian or legal representative to pay a P3,120.00 waiver fee for each unaccompanied minor. Payment shall be made to an authorized cashier at the port of entry. The cashier shall retain a copy of the Waiver of Exclusion forms.
3. After payment, the minor's guardian or legal representative shall present the Waiver of Exclusion forms' official receipt of payment to the Immigration Duty Supervisor. (The Immigration Duty Supervisor shall note the serial number of the official receipt and the total number of minors covered by the receipt.)
4. The Immigration Duty Supervisor shall then direct an Immigration Officer to admit the minor, after noting the official receipts serial number below the admission stamp and canceling the receipts.
5. The Immigration Officer detaches the copy of the Waiver of Exclusion Order forms and retains a copy of the minor's passport, for the Bureau of Immigration's database.

Waiver of Exclusion Ground is **NOT** required for foreign minor children of **Philippine ancestry** who are traveling **accompanied by a Filipino grandparent/relative (Philippine citizen or former Philippine citizen)** PROVIDED THAT the accompanying grandparent/relative submits substantive proof of the child's Philippine ancestry upon arrival at the post of entry (e.g. birth certificate of the child, birth certificate of Filipino parent and accompanying grandparent/relative).