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## **County Clerk Hanlon Warns Residents about Major Delays in Passport Issuance by Federal Government**

*County Clerk Encourages Residents to Plan Ahead for International Travel*

FREEHOLD, NJ – Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon is warning residents that the U.S. Department of State is experiencing major passport processing delays and is therefore advising residents to apply for passports well in advance of any planned international travel.

According to the most recent update on March 24, 2023, the U.S. State Department passport service times are as follows:

- Routine service – 10 to 13 weeks\*
- Expedited service (for an additional \$60) – 7 to 9 weeks\*

\*The U.S. State Department is informing that these service times do not include the estimated mailing times for the application to be received by a passport agency and then for the passport to be delivered to you, which can add up to another 4 weeks to regular and expedited service.

“We have been receiving a multitude of phone calls from concerned residents that they have not yet received their passports, and are unable to have their questions answered when they contact the National Passport Center,” said Clerk Hanlon.

“Unfortunately, my office cannot help once the passport application has been forwarded to the U.S. State Department, and therefore, those applying for passports must interface with the U.S. State Department directly or they may wish to contact their appropriate congressional representative,” said Clerk Hanlon. “Our constituents are understandably frustrated and we are hoping that the U.S. State Department will resolve these issues expeditiously.”

In order to avoid delays, residents are advised to plan many months ahead for international travel. Residents can apply for a passport at one of the County Clerk’s two Passport Offices in Freehold and Neptune.

To minimize customer wait times at the County Clerk’s Passport Offices, appointments are recommended, and are required for parties of 4 or more applicants. Priority will be granted to those with appointments. Walk-ins are welcome but should expect longer wait times. Appointments can be made by calling the respective passport office during normal business hours.

- Freehold - Monmouth County Clerk’s Office located in the Market Yard at 33 Mechanic Street (south of Main Street). The hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 732-431-7324.
- Neptune - Monmouth County Connection at 3544 Route 66 (near Home Depot). The hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 732-303-2828.

To obtain a passport, it is necessary to have a certified birth certificate with a raised seal, social security number, and current identification such as a driver's license or government identification. Passport photos are available for a fee of \$10 at both locations.

Passport forms must be filled out prior to arrival at our offices and can be downloaded online on our website at [MonmouthCountyClerk.com](http://MonmouthCountyClerk.com) or on the U.S. State Department website at [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov).

Parents who are making a passport application for a child under the age of 16 are required to appear together or to submit additional documentation.

For more information about the passport application process, please visit the Monmouth County Clerk's Office website at [MonmouthCountyClerk.com](http://MonmouthCountyClerk.com).

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