SOFA STAMP REQUIREMENTS FOR INFANTS BORN IN KOREA

All dependents of U.S. active duty military and civilian component residing in Korea are required to have their passports SOFA stamped. This includes babies who are born here. Korean law requires parents of U.S. citizen children to obtain a Korean visa in their passport within 30 days of birth, if the child is to remain in Korea for more than 30 days. Failure to register the child for a Korean Visa or SOFA stamp could result in a fine that must be paid before the child can leave the country. For this reason, it is important to apply for a Consular Report of Birth and a Passport as soon as possible.

Many parents choose to apply for a U.S. passport at the same time as a Consular Report of Birth. If it is impractical to get a photograph of a newborn for a passport, the child's birth should still be reported to Korean immigration as soon as possible. Immigration will create a file on the child and complete processing once the passport has been issued. Taking these steps may prevent any penalty from being levied.

Whatever you do **MAKE SURE** that your child's passport is stamped with an A-3 visa and a SOFA stamp before attempting to take the child out of Korea. Violation of the law has resulted in detentions and a fines. The exact amount of the fine will depend on the circumstances of the case as well as the number of days which have elapsed since the original 30 day requirement to report the birth. However, even if the fine is minimal any delay at the airport could be far more costly.

Consular Report of Birth and Passports can be obtained through the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, 721-4110/4383 or at the Yongsan Client Legal Services Office DSN 738-8111/6841. The SOFA stamp is issued (after obtaining a passport and visa) at the Yongsan ACS building room 122, DSN 738-4617/7999/7185 on the last Tuesday of each month. Applicants must register at room 122 in advance and pick up a SOFA packet. SOFA stamps are also available daily at Osan Air Force Base. The sponsor must register at the Personal Affairs Office, bldg 936, room 102 and take the passport and documentation to the Immigration Office located at the AMC Terminal, DSN 784-4042, to be stamped.