
Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 07-08-2008 13:05

OK, so a friend of mine needed me, at no notice, to countersign his son's passport application, for which (I discovered when I'd nearly completed the form) I needed my passport number. Where's my passport? I don't know. Must have put it down somewhere.

So, is there any way of finding it out without having it to hand? I know, why don't I ring the Passport Office Information Line?

When you ring the Passport Office Information Line, you get a recorded bloke talking incredibly slowly, saying "For advice on , call the Passport Office Information Info Line on **** * . Calls cost £1.50 per minute."

So I ring the Passport Office Information Info Line, and there's this same bloke, reading equally slowly, at £1.50 a minute, a list of exactly what to do in all of the ten information-seeking scenarios he mentioned on the other line. He keeps saying "Address and telephone numbers of the relevant operators will be given in a few moments."

Then, after about four minutes, the line suddenly goes dead.

Fucking useless fucking cunt-faced cunts.

I still don't know where I've put my passport. In the end, I rang (a) a colleague I'd faxed a photocopy to before my UAE trip, and (b) the hotel I'd stayed in in Maastricht, and got the number to my friend just in time.

But, I mean, you know, what the fuck? Premium lines where they talk at half speed and you never get a chance to talk to an actual person? If I'd wanted that I'd have called one of those numbers Nishlord posted.

We pay these bastards you know.

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Re:Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by barndoorio - 07-08-2008 13:11

Last time I'd lost my passport it had fallen behind the PC after I'd scanned it in to send a copy to someone... Maybe it's there?

As for the phone lines, yes they're absurd, I suppose they'd argue they're speaking slowly so you don't miss any important information while you're paying for it.

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Re:Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by Femme Folle - 07-08-2008 13:12

Sounds like a scene out of a Terry Gilliam movie.

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Re:Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 07-08-2008 13:16

Another thing I hate about the passport office is that they still have that regulation where you have to get your application countersigned by, you know, a vicar or a doctor or a teacher or a solicitor or something. Which is completely anachronistic and unrealistic. Loads of people these days live their lives without knowing anyone in those professions. Last time I had to get mine done, I needed to get Mrs Grundy, who is a qualified doctor, to countersign mine. Which was absolutely brilliant of her, and otherwise I'd have been fucked. (The irony being that she's Romanian by birth.)

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Re:Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 07-08-2008 13:17

I'd have sorted you out, mate. If I was able to lay my hand on my passport.

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Re:Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 07-08-2008 13:18

Wyatt Earp wrote:

I'd have sorted you out, mate. If I was able to lay my hand on my passport.

Hah. OK, next time I lose mine, you'll be the first port of call.

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Re:Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by will dance for food - 07-08-2008 13:19

you know, a vicar or a doctor or a teacher or a solicitor or something. Which is completely anachronistic and unrealistic. Loads of people these days live their lives without knowing anyone in those professions

I would hazard a guess that not that many people applying for passports live their lives without ever knowing a teacher. Of course, whether they're still in touch with one when they need their application completed is an entirely separate matter.

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Re:Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 07-08-2008 13:20

will dance for food wrote:

you know, a vicar or a doctor or a teacher or a solicitor or something. Which is completely anachronistic and unrealistic. Loads of people these days live their lives without knowing anyone in those professions

I would hazard a guess that not that many people applying for passports live their lives without ever knowing a teacher. Of course, whether they're still in touch with one when they need their application completed is an entirely separate matter.

Adult lives then, whatever. You know what I meant. People move away from where they grew up.

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Re:Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 07-08-2008 13:21

"So, boy, you expect me to sign this, do you? Don't think I don't know who put drawing-pins on my chair in 1978."

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Re:Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by Eggchaser - 07-08-2008 14:25

Just because you lowlife "Gentlemen" of the Press and associated trades are, in society's eyes, no cleaner than a weasel and so must rely on the good offices of we fine, upstanding professional classes to verify that the sordid little cameo presented to the Passport Office is in fact not, as it appears, a boss-eyed escapee from Bedlam (doubtless driven insane by persistent masturbation), but is in fact a sane, healthy human being (no matter how ill it behooves the description) should not be a reason for you to complain. Rather, you should rejoice that we are willing to lend our

signatures to aid in your determination to leave this great country of ours, probably to scuttle off to some debauch with your favoured catamites in some rural backwater in Eastern Europe.

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Re:Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 07-08-2008 14:38

Harsh but fair.

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Re:Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by WornOldMotorbike - 07-08-2008 14:40

you have to get your application countersigned by, you know, a vicar or a doctor or a teacher or a solicitor or something

We've just had this stupidity lifted. Now it's anyone who's known you for at least five years.

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Re:Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by Spearmint Rhino - 07-08-2008 14:43

WornOldMotorbike wrote:

you have to get your application countersigned by, you know, a vicar or a doctor or a teacher or a solicitor or something

We've just had this stupidity lifted. Now it's anyone who's known you for at least five years.

Enigmatic drifters just can't get an even break.

http://image.guardian.co.uk/sys-images/Arts/Arts_/Pictures/2007/09/13/palerider460.jpg

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Re:Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by Eggchaser - 07-08-2008 15:04

He was dead anyway, so he wasn't really in line for a passport. Plus, he would have just shot the Customs officials if they got in his way.

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Re:Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by chippy - 07-08-2008 15:59

Being a not very good accountant I will happily countersign passport applications without charging a fee.

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Re:Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by The Horse - 07-08-2008 21:34

I'm fairly sure journalist is among the list of professions. When I got a passport for The Foal this year, the bloke opposite me at work countersigned it.

Re:Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by Rogin the Armchair Fan - 07-08-2008 21:45

I'm fairly sure journalist is among the list of professions.

If it is, it's an "etc." I've got to renew my ten-year passport again as we speak (36, gulp) and so I have the form to hand, and I quote:

"The person acting as your countersignatory must be a professional person or a person of standing in the community. Examples include bank or building society officials, police officers, civil servants, ministers of religion and people with professional qualifications such as teachers, accountants, engineers, solicitors etc".

Curious that - alongside journalists, and plumbers - others not explicitly noted as "professionals" are GPs.

Re:Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by The Horse - 07-08-2008 21:48

Oh. Well, I got away with it. Maybe they're not as strict with minors. I'm sure I read the bumpf I had and concluded that it would be OK.

Re:Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by Rogin the Armchair Fan - 07-08-2008 21:52

It used to state that countersigning a passport application falsely or incorrectly carried a potential 10-year prison sentence, but I just checked again and to be fair no such penalty is implied anymore.

Getting tough on immigration control ...?

Re:Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by The Horse - 07-08-2008 22:07

Here's what I was on about.

Re:Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by Ant van Oviedo - 07-08-2008 22:07

Wyatt Earp wrote:

Where's my passport? I don't know. Must have put it down somewhere.
Fucking useless fucking cunt-faced cunt.

Re:Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by Ginger Yellow - 07-08-2008 22:11

I'm a journalist and I don't have any professional qualifications. Also, if the person must be of similar standing in the community to a journo, surely that only rules out paedophiles and estate agents.

Christian Science practitioner

Huh? Charlatanism is a profession now?

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Re:Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by gerontophile - 08-08-2008 07:03

Photographer (professional)

Anyone who has ever been paid to take a picture? Or just wipe your application on an inky Photo-Me booth?

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Re:Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by TonTon - 08-08-2008 09:41

I need to renew my passport. I keep remembering when I can't do anything about it, and forgetting when I can. Bum.

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Re:Passport Office Bastards, Kill Them All

Posted by Wyatt Earp - 08-08-2008 09:44

Ant van Oviedo wrote:

Wyatt Earp wrote:

Where's my passport? I don't know. Must have put it down somewhere.
Fucking useless fucking cunt-faced cunt.

It's a fair cop.

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