

Important Notice on the Use of False Travel Documents to travel from Malta

January 2021

The procedure to obtain a genuine travel document.

Genuine documents may **ONLY** be issued by **OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES** of the country.

These would include official passport offices (in Malta this is the **Passport Office in Identity Malta**) or else **Embassies** in other countries. In most cases, the procedure would require that the person who requires the document visits *personally* the offices/embassy of the issuing authority.

Any administrative fee will be clearly displayed, and a receipt will be given for all payments made.

It is not normal procedure for a third person (who is not legally representing you) to get involved in the acquisition of a personal travelling document which may be required.

What are the consequences/ penalties of using a false document in Malta?

It is a **CRIME** in Malta to obtain, possess or use false documents. One can be found guilty of such a crime under a number of provisions in the laws of Malta.

If a person *commits forgery* or *knowingly makes use of a forged document*, he or she shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding **six months**.

Moreover, under another provision of the law, that person who *forges any document or true copy of a document or without lawful authority uses or has in his possession any document which is forged*, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding eleven thousand and six hundred and forty-six euro and eighty-seven cents (11,646.87) or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to both such fine and imprisonment, unless a greater punishment is established for such offence by another law.

According to the Passport Ordinance, any person who *forges, alters or tampers with any passport or uses or has in his possession any passport which he knows to be forged, altered or tampered with*, shall, on conviction, be liable to imprisonment for a term from **six months to two years**.

Besides such imprisonment term imposed by the Court, the person who is convicted of using a false document may have his or her **enjoyment of freedom from detention revoked**, as applicable.

What are the long-term consequences of being caught using a false document?

The conviction of using a false document will be listed in the *person's criminal record*. Consequently, this will adversely affect any future re-entry application or permit (work/residence) submitted in Malta or in other countries.

How can I report situations that seem to give rise to false issuing or use of travel documents?

By email: sb.police@gov.mt / pulizija@gov.mt

By phone: +356 2240 0000

By visiting: Police Head Quarters, Pjazza Kalcidonju, Floriana and ask for the Duty Immigration Officer between 9am – 5pm