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NOTICE OF POTENTIAL U. S. PASSPORT FEE INCREASES

The Department of State placed a notice in the Federal Register on February 9, 2010 regarding proposed increases in passport fees as well as other consular fees.

The adult passport book fee (not including the \$25.00 execution fee and the security surcharge) would increase from \$55.00 to \$70.00. The security surcharge would increase from \$20.00 to \$40.00. Therefore, the total for an adult passport book would be \$135.00 (\$70.00 passport fee, \$40.00 security surcharge, plus \$25.00 execution fee). For an adult eligible to use the renewal-by-mail application, the total fee would be \$110.00 (\$70.00 passport fee plus \$40.00 security surcharge). The minor passport book fee would not increase, however because the security surcharge would increase, the *total* fee for a minor would actually increase. The total fee for a minor's book would be \$105.00 (\$40.00 passport fee, \$40.00 security surcharge, and \$25.00 execution fee). There would also now be a fee for requesting that additional visa pages be added to a current passport book - \$82.00.

An adult passport book (using the DS-82) would be \$110.00.

The adult passport card fee would increase from \$20.00 to \$30.00, while the minor's would increase from \$10.00 to \$15.00.

The file search fee would increase from \$60.00 to \$150.00 (this is the fee charged when a customer is unable to submit evidence of US citizenship with his passport application, but he has had a previous US passport and is asking that we verify his citizenship through our records).

The expedite fee would not be increasing, and the execution fee would not be increasing.

As noted in the Federal Register, **the Department intends to implement this proposed rule, and initiate collection of the fees set forth herein, as soon as practicable following the expiration of the 30-day public comment period following this proposed rule's publication in the Federal Register, and after the Department has had the opportunity to fully consider any public comments received.**

At the present time we don't know the exact date it could be implemented (provided the Department proceeds with implementation following the public's comments), but it would necessarily have to be after March 9, 2010.

The Santa Barbara County Clerk, Recorder and Assessor's Office