



**Mailing Addresses:**

Dade City:  
38053 Live Oak Avenue  
Dade City, FL 33523-3894

New Port Richey:  
P.O. Box 338  
New Port Richey, FL 34656-0338

**Office Locations:**

Robert D. Sumner Judicial Center  
38053 Live Oak Avenue, Suite 205  
Dade City, FL 33523-3894

West Pasco Judicial Center  
7530 Little Road, Suite 106  
New Port Richey, FL 34654

East Pasco Government Center  
14236 Sixth Street, Suite 201  
Dade City, FL 33523

West Pasco Government Center  
8731 Citizens Drive, Suite 220  
New Port Richey, FL 34654

East Pasco Records Center  
38319 McDonald Street  
Dade City, FL 33525

West Pasco Records Center  
Jack Albert Records Retention Center  
8902 Government Drive  
New Port Richey, FL 34654

Phone: (727) 847-8199

Fax: (727) 847-8121

[www.pascoclerk.com](http://www.pascoclerk.com)

[poneil@pascoclerk.com](mailto:poneil@pascoclerk.com)

*Excellence...Always*

*Paula S. O'Neil, Ph.D.  
Clerk & Comptroller  
Pasco County, Florida*

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## **Passport Day: Get a head start on vacation travel plan**

Processing passport applications is among the most rewarding services provided by the Office of Pasco County Clerk & Comptroller. We perform that cheery task every day we're open, and it's among the reasons we call the rooms where it happens – our Official Records locations – the “happy place.”

Less happy, however, are those would-be international travelers who find it difficult to get to either the East or West Pasco Government Centers during regular working hours (8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday).

Especially for those folks who are passport-challenged and time-constrained, we've scheduled Passport Day. The skinny: We're setting aside Saturday, March 16, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at our Official Records offices in Dade City and New Port Richey to process passport applications, and even take official passport photographs for those who need them.

“It is hard to make time for both parents to visit our Office at the same time on a weekday,” says Paula O'Neil, Ph.D., Pasco County Clerk & Comptroller, “so we are offering the opportunity on Passport Day.”

Traditionally, spring break signals a crush of parents bringing their youngsters to our Official Records locations for passports. Being open that first Saturday of spring break offers an opportunity to get a head start.

“Other passport-acceptance agents host Saturday special events,” says Official Records Director Debbie Gay, “and they boast of their successes. We were inspired by what they've told us.”

No appointment is needed to participate in Passport Day. However, applicants must bring identifying documents – government-issued identification and birth certificates – as well as separate checks or money orders for payment, and, if available, an expired passport book.

“We're hoping people who want to travel soon will take advantage of the convenience of our Passport Day,” Debbie says. “We're also hoping to take some of the crush off spring break week, so people who come in then won't have so long to wait.”

The U.S. State Department recommends allowing at least six weeks for passports to be delivered. However, passport applications can be expedited for a fee.

Please note, Passport Day is set aside for deputy clerks to focus exclusively on processing passport applications. No other Official Records business will be performed on Passport Day.

“Passports are needed in so many cases for travelers today,” Paula says. “We look forward to meeting residents and families on Passport Day!”