



Tremendous  
Hearts

## Volunteer Immigration Information: RSA Application Requirements for Visitor's Permit (Voluntary or Charitable Activities)

1. **Valid passport** with at least two (2) unused (blank) visa pages when presented at the Embassy or Consulate; one page for affixing the visa or permit by the embassy/consulate and the other page for endorsement of entry/departure stamp by the South African Immigration Services. Passport must be valid for 30 more days after the intended return date from South Africa. *NOTE: Applicant will need to submit their actual passport with their application to have the permit affixed on a visa page in the passport book.*
2. **Visitor's Permit Fee** and **Mailing Fees** [<http://www.southafrica-newyork.net/homeaffairs/consularfees.htm>] payable to the appropriate South African representative office [<http://www.southafrica-newyork.net/homeaffairs/jurisdiction.htm>]. *See also information on Deposit (page 2, #13).*
3. Prescribed **form BI-84** [<http://www.southafrica-newyork.net/consulate/forms/bi84.pdf>]. *NOTE: An "unrehabilitated insolvent" is someone with an unresolved personal bankruptcy.*
4. **Medical Report BI-811** [<http://www.southafrica-newyork.net/consulate/forms/medical.pdf>].
5. **Radiological Report BI-806** [<http://www.southafrica-newyork.net/consulate/forms/bi806.pdf>].
6. **Police Clearance Certificate** from all countries where the applicant resided for 12 months or longer since 18 years of age. *NOTE: Instructions from consular staff has been inconsistent with regard to whether U.S. residents must obtain clearance from the FBI or only from the appropriate agency in their home state. Please call the consulate through which you are applying to clarify this requirement. Information on obtaining a criminal background check from the FBI may be found at <http://www.fbi.gov/hq/cjisd/fprequest.htm>. When being fingerprinted by the local police station for an FBI clearance, we recommend having 2 sets made and ensuring that they are crisp and clean or they may not be read by the FBI and will be returned, delaying your clearance. FBI processing times can be as long as 60 days.*
7. A **vaccination certificate** (if required). *NOTE: This should not be required in Cape Town however please call the consulate to confirm.*

8. **Proof of financial means** in the forms of:

- a. Bank statements; and
- b. Salary advices.

*NOTE: This is to establish that volunteers have sufficient means to support themselves while in South Africa. For those volunteers who are receiving sponsorship from Tremendous Hearts, we will provide a letter outlining the extent of our financial support. Tremendous Hearts has received mixed reports on the number of resources Home Affairs requires in order to be assured that a volunteer can support themselves, as such we recommend providing any and all information in this regard.*

9. **Undertaking (commitment) by the South African host.** *NOTE: Tremendous Hearts will obtain this letter from the organization or project at which the volunteer will be serving in order for the volunteer to include it in their application.*
10. **Bursaries** (any grants awarded as part of a financial assistance package). *NOTE: This is not applicable except for those volunteers who are receiving sponsorship from Tremendous Hearts in which case we will provide a letter outlining the extent of our financial support.*
11. Proof of **medical coverage**.
12. **Cash available**, including credit cards or travelers' checks to cover expenses related to the visit.
13. **Deposit.** *NOTE: This is usually US\$1,000 however please contact the consulate to confirm this amount. The deposit IS refundable provided that you comply with stipulations and produce the original receipt upon return to your home country.*
14. **Marriage and birth certificate.** *NOTE: These do not need to be original or certified documents.*
15. Applicants traveling by air must be in possession of **round trip tickets**, or **proof of sufficient funds** or lodge a **cash deposit of equivalent value** to such a ticket. *NOTE: Please call the consulate to establish the requirements based on your circumstances.*
16. **Statement** and/or documentation **confirming the purpose and duration of visit.** *NOTE: This will be covered by your sponsoring organization's letter and application form.*
17. **Two (2) passport sized photographs.** *NOTE: Although it is not listed on the website, volunteers will need to provide 2 passport-sized photographs with their application. These will be affixed to your passport by the Consulate if your permit is granted.*

**IMPORTANT:** This annotated information is provided by Tremendous Hearts to applicants to *assist* them in planning to travel to South Africa. It is accurate as of the date of the document, however the applicant is solely responsible for verifying the most current application requirements with the RSA Department of Home Affairs [<http://www.southafrica-newyork.net/homeaffairs/visitorsvisa.htm#voluntary%20or%20charitable>].