DENMARK INTRODUCES BIOMETRIC RESIDENCE CARDS 20 MAY 2012

From May 20 2012 residence cards must contain digital photos, fingerprints and signatures. New residence permits for third-country citizens will include a computer chip containing biometric features on the residence cards. For more information see www.newtodenmark.dk

Biometric residence cards

The following applicants **must** have their biometric data recorded when submitting their applications:

- All third-country citizens (non-EU/EEA, Nordic or Swiss citizens) of age 18 years and over.

- Applicants under 18 years of age, who DO NOT live with a parent or other legal guardian.

- Applicants under 18 years of age if requested.

- Biometric data must also be recorded when seeking an extension.

Only children under the age of 6 and persons for whom fingerprints is physically impossible are exempted from providing fingerprints. Every applicant who is submitting a residence permit application must therefore attend the [name of the external service provider] in person. Children of less than 6 years need to attend, but are not require to have fingerprints or signature recorded, only a photograph.

In the following three cases no biometrics is recorded. The applicant is requested to submit **three passport photos** together with the application and supporting documents

- Individuals **under 18 years of age**, who live with a parent or other legal guardian - and who are not applying for a residence card.

- **Applications for Greenland and the Faro Islands**. Case order ID is not applicable for residence applications for Greenland and the Faro Islands.

- **Applying under EU law**. Biometric data is not required for third country citizens applying under EU legislation. Case order ID is not applicable for applications for residence cards under the EU legislation.

Note: The Danish Immigration Service/Agency for Labour Retention and International Recruitment **will not begin processing of** the application until they have received the biometric data. If the applicant refuses to have his/her picture taken or fingerprints recorded, The Danish Immigration Service/Agency for Labour Retention and International Recruitment **will refuse** the application.

Documentation

Applicants should bring all documents including the passport in original and one copy. The copies MUST be in A4 format and in colour.

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According to regulation (EC) No. 380/2008 of 18 April 2008 residence cards issued after May 20th. 2012 shall contain an electronic chip with photo, fingerprints and signature recorded digitally. In this way the security against forgery and misuse of residence cards is strengthened considerably.
The decision to introduce fingerprints in residence cards, has been made at a central level in the EU as part of the combat against terrorism, human trade, human trafficking, illegal immigration and other transnational crime.

Biometrics must be obtained when the application is lodged
In order to issue biometric residence cards, installation of special equipment for taking photos and recording fingerprints and signature is necessary.

Can I apply for a residence/work permit if one or more of my fingers are injured?
According to the law biometric data must always be contained in a biometric residence card. If the index finger is injured, a biometric residence card can be issued. In that case, a fingerprint will be taken of an alternative finger.

Must children also give their fingerprints?
No. Fingerprints are not collected from children under 6 years of age.

What to bring?
Bring the application and supporting documents (originals as well as copies). Copies of the originals must be in colour and size A4.
Babies: We recommend to bring a recent photo of the child, which meets the requirements for a photo i.e. The photo must be 35 mm x 45 mm (size of head 30-36 mm from the bottom of the chin to the top of the head). You must be facing the camera directly.