

# What is passport and visa fraud?

## **Offenders commit passport crime to:**

- conceal their identity, such as fugitives and terrorists
- illegally enter the United States or avoid deportation
- commit financial crimes and bank fraud
- facilitate other criminal activity such as drug trafficking or alien smuggling

## **How is passport fraud committed?**

- Assuming the identity of a deceased person to apply for passports
- Using phony support documents, such as fake birth certificates
- Using stolen and altered passports
- Circumventing the two-parent signature rule for children

## **Criminals commit visa fraud to:**

- smuggle aliens into the United States
- flee from prosecution
- facilitate drug trafficking and terrorist operations
- assist with other crimes, like remaining in the United States illegally

## **What are typical types of visa fraud?**

- Presenting false documents to apply for a visa
- Concealing facts that would disqualify one from getting a visa, like a criminal history in the alien's home country
- The sale, trafficking, or transfer of otherwise legitimate visas
- Misrepresenting the reasons for requiring a visa
- Counterfeiting, forgery, or alteration of a visa