

U.S. State Department rules on passport photos

Generally, you cannot wear a hat, head covering, eyeglasses or otherwise cover any part of your face in a U.S. passport photo. However, you can request a religious accommodation that allows you to wear a hijab or kufi in your photo.

Here is what the State Department says about religious headwear,
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/how-apply/photos.html>:

Can I wear a hat or head covering in my photo?

You may wear a hat or head covering, but you must submit a signed statement that verifies that the hat or head covering is part of recognized, traditional religious attire that is customarily or required to be worn continuously in public [or doctor's letter if medical reasons].

Your full face must be visible and your hat or head covering cannot obscure your hairline or cast shadows on your face

Photo Examples

Shadows and Lighting

Glasses

Size and Position

Resolution, Print Size, and Quality

Digital Alterations and Retouching

Pose and Expression


Attire, Hats, and Hair

Background

Children



Acceptable— Subject's full face is visible, no shadows or clothing obscure the face

 Photo tip: You may not wear hats or head coverings, except for religious or medical purposes and with a signed statement.



See a sample request for a religious accommodation on the next page.

Here is a sample letter to bring with you when you get your passport photo taken and to include with your passport renewal application. Make any needed changes to fit your situation.

[Date]

If you live in CA, FL, IL, MN, NY or TX, use this address:

National Passport Processing Center
P.O. Box 640155
Irving, TX 75064-0155

If you live in any other state or Canada, use this address:

National Passport Processing Center
P.O. Box 90155
Philadelphia, PA 19190-0155

RE: Passport renewal – notice of religious head covering for passport photo

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to advise you that I wear a religious head covering while in public on a daily basis as part of my sincerely-held religious beliefs. I am a Muslim and, in accordance with Muslim beliefs and practices, I cover my hair [and neck] on a daily basis with a [hijab/kufi].

Sincerely,

[your signature]
[name printed or typed]
[address]
[email address]

[Last updated March 2022]