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Lost Passport or ID Card — What to Do in Germany?

Step-by-step guide if you lose or have your Reisepass and Personalausweis stolen: Police, Consulate, replacement documents and tips for foreigners.

Deutsche Begriffe: Reisepass | Personalausweis | Verlustanzeige | Polizei | Konsulat | Ersatzdokument | Passersatz

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First Steps After Loss or Theft

If you lose your **Reisepass**, **Personalausweis** or **Aufenthaltstitel** in Germany or it is stolen, you must act quickly. A lost identity document can be misused for **identity theft**, and without a valid ID you cannot identify yourself.

Immediate Actions:

1. Stay calm — carefully reconstruct the loss (when and where was it last seen?)

2. Notify the police — file a loss report

3. Contact your Consulate/Embassy (for foreign documents)

4. Inform the Foreigners' Office (if Aufenthaltstitel is affected)

Step 1 — File a Loss Report with the Police

Go to the nearest **police station** and file a **loss report** (in case of theft: **theft report**). You will need:

• Your **name** and **address** in Germany

• A **description** of the lost document (type, number, issue date, if known)

• Information about the **location of loss** and **time**

The police will issue you a **written confirmation** of the loss report. **Keep this in a safe place** — you will need it for all further steps.

Costs: Filing a loss report with the police is **free of charge**.

Why is the Loss Report So Important?

• It protects you from **misuse** of your document (e.g. identity theft)

• It is a **prerequisite** for applying for a replacement document

• The lost passport is **blocked in searchable databases** (SIS II / INPOL)

• Without a loss report, you may encounter problems during checks

Step 2 — Apply for a Replacement Document

For German Citizens

Go with the loss report to the **Citizen's Office** (Bürgeramt) of your place of residence and apply for:

Document	Costs	Processing Time
Personalausweis	€37 (under 24: €22.80)	3–6 weeks
Reisepass	€70 (under 24: €37.50)	3–6 weeks
Temporary Personalausweis	€10	Immediate (same day)
Temporary Reisepass	€26	Immediate (same day)
Express Reisepass	€102 (under 24: €69.50)	3 business days

Required Documents:

• **Loss report** from the police

• **Biometric passport photo** (no older than 6 months)

• If necessary **birth certificate** or **marriage certificate**

• **Certificate of registration** (if no other document is available)

For Foreign Nationals (EU)

EU citizens can only apply for their **Personalausweis** or **Reisepass** in their **country of origin** or at the competent **Consulate** in Germany.

Procedure:

1. File a loss report with German police

2. Contact your **Consulate** or **Embassy** in Germany

3. Apply for an **Emergency Travel Document** (ETD) or a new passport

4. Costs and processing times vary by country

For Third-Country Nationals (Non-EU)

If you are from a non-EU country and lose your passport:

1. Loss report with German police

2. Immediately contact your **Consulate** or **Embassy**

3. Apply for a **new passport** or **travel document** (Laissez-Passer) there

4. Go to the **Foreigners' Office** with the new document

Step 3 — Lost Aufenthaltstitel

If you have lost your **Aufenthaltstitel** (electronic Aufenthaltstitel — eAT), you must additionally:

1. Notify the Foreigners' Office (in person or by phone)

2. Schedule an appointment at the Foreigners' Office

3. Apply for a new eAT

Required Documents:

• Loss report from the police

• Biometric passport photo

• Valid passport (or substitute document)

• €67 fee

Important: Until the new eAT is issued (4–6 weeks), you will receive a **certificate of fictional entry** (Fiktionsbescheinigung). This confirms that your stay remains lawful.

Special Case: Lost Both Passport and Aufenthaltstitel

If you have lost **both documents at the same time**:

1. First file a loss report with the **police** for both documents

2. Then apply for a new passport at your **Consulate**

3. With the new passport and loss report, go to the **Foreigners' Office**

4. Apply for a new Aufenthaltstitel there

Until all documents are reissued, the **loss report** and possibly a **certificate of fictional entry** serve as provisional proof.

Lost and Found Office — Maybe It Was Found

Before you reapply for all documents, it's worth checking the **Lost and Found Office** (Fundamt):

• **Online:** Many cities have an online lost and found service (e.g. fundservice.berlin.de)

• **In person:** Lost and Found Office at City Hall or Citizen's Office

• **Storage period:** Lost items are usually kept for **6 months**

Important Tips

Securing Documents — Preventively

• Make **copies** (paper and digital) of all important documents: passport, Aufenthaltstitel, birth certificate

• Store copies **securely** (e.g. encrypted cloud, not in the same wallet)

• Write down **document numbers** separately

Lost Abroad

If you lose your passport **abroad** (e.g. while traveling):

• Contact the **German Consulate** (for German passport) or your home country's consulate

• An **emergency passport** or **travel document** allows you to return to Germany

• Costs are approximately **€26–70** depending on the document and country

Loss Report vs. Theft Report

• **Loss report** = you lost the document (not a criminal offense)

• **Theft report** = your document was stolen (criminal report)

• In case of theft, you may be able to claim **damages** through your **household insurance**

Observe Deadlines

• **Loss report:** File immediately — there is no deadline, but the sooner the better

• **Foreigners' Office:** Report the loss **without undue delay** — otherwise you risk a fine

• **ID requirement:** Germans aged 16 and above are required to have a valid Personalausweis or Reisepass

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