

# Fingerprint and Photograph Checks

THIS LEAFLET EXPLAINS FINGERPRINT AND PHOTOGRAPH USE BY IMMIGRATION NEW ZEALAND

## 1. Who must provide fingerprints and a photograph?

All non-New Zealand citizens must provide fingerprints and photographs if required by Immigration New Zealand.

## 2. Why are you taking my fingerprints and photograph?

We use the information to help verify your identity. This helps you to prove that you are who you say you are.

## 3. How is it done?

We scan your fingerprints with an electronic reader. There is no ink or mess involved; simply place your fingers and then thumbs on the glass plate. We will also take your photograph.

## 4. What are you doing with my fingerprints and photograph?

Your fingerprints and photograph will be safely stored by Immigration New Zealand. We may compare them with Immigration New Zealand records and other New Zealand agencies where a data sharing agreement is in place.

We may also compare your fingerprints or photograph with international trusted partners to confirm your identity.

## 5. How are you protecting my privacy?

All of your information is securely stored by Immigration New Zealand for your natural life-span. No-one can access your information without authorisation.

Any fingerprints sent to partner countries are encrypted and secure. No other information is shared – they are anonymous. If your fingerprints do not match, the partner country will immediately delete them.

## 6. What happens if my fingerprints or photograph match a record?

If there is a match, a specialist will double check the match to make sure it is accurate and additional information may be shared. We will give you an opportunity to comment on any prejudicial information.

## 7. What happens if I refuse to provide my fingerprints or photograph to you?

Under the Immigration Act 2009, you must provide fingerprints and a photograph if required by Immigration New Zealand.

If you refuse then we may lose confidence that you are who you say you are. This might affect your application. In some cases, it is also an offence to refuse or fail to provide fingerprints and a photograph.

## 8. Under what legislation is this done?

The Immigration Act 2009 gives Immigration New Zealand the authority to require your fingerprints and photograph. This is to confirm your identity.

## 9. Can I see the biometrics that you hold for me, or have shared with other countries?

Yes. We will give you a copy of your photo and/or fingerprints if you ask. If there is a fingerprint match with another country we will show you what identity information was shared.

For more information visit:  
[www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz)