



Weaponizing Passports Won't Help American Kids

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The State Department recently announced plans to coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services “[on an unprecedented scale](#)” to revoke passports from Americans with child support debt. [Revocations began](#) May 8 for passport holders who owe \$100,000 or more and will soon affect those who owe more than \$2,500 in unpaid child support. A vast number of American parents, [overwhelmingly fathers](#), are poised to lose a vital document that is used not only for travel but also as proof of identity and citizenship.

Predictably, some are celebrating this move as “[cracking down on deadbeats](#).” The image of a man booking an overseas flight while choosing to evade his legal and moral responsibility to provide for his children offers a compelling pretext for expanded federal child support enforcement. We have been primed for this over decades of casting noncustodial fathers — particularly [Black and low-income](#) fathers — as [absentee villains](#).