

Teaching about the Holocaust

Documentation Required for Emigration from Germany

After 1937, Jews needed the following documents from German authorities to leave the country.

- Passport
- Certificate from the local police noting the formal dissolution of residence in Germany
- Certificate from the Reich Ministry of Finance approving emigration, which required:
 - Payment of an emigration tax of 25 percent on total assets valued at more than 50,000 RM. This tax came due upon the dissolution of German residence.
 - Submission of an itemized list of all gifts made to third parties since January 1, 1931. If their value exceeded 10,000 RM, they were included in the calculation of the emigration tax.
 - Payment of a capital transfer tax of 25 percent (levied only on Jews) of assets in addition to the emigration tax.
 - Certification from the local tax office that there were no outstanding taxes due.
 - Certification from a currency exchange office that all currency regulations had been followed. An emigrant was permitted to take 2,000 RM or less in currency out of the country. Any remaining assets would be transferred into blocked bank accounts with restricted access.
- Customs declaration, dated no earlier than three days before departure, permitting the export of itemized personal and household goods. This declaration required:
 - Submission of a list, in triplicate, of all personal and household goods accompanying the emigrant stating their value. The list had to note items acquired before January 1, 1933, those acquired since January 1, 1933, and those acquired to facilitate emigration.
 - Documents attesting to the value of personal and household goods, and written explanations for the necessity of taking them out of the country.
 - Certification from a currency exchange office permitting the export of itemized personal and household goods, dated no earlier than 14 days before departure.

With the preceding documents, emigrants could leave Germany, if and only if they had valid travel arrangements and entrance visas for another country. After the union of Germany and Austria in March 1938, emigrants from Austria holding an Austrian passport had to apply for a German exit visa before they were permitted to leave the country.