Client Alert

November 2026

New Child-Protection Obligations for Tourism Service Providers in Mexico

Amendments to Article 58 of the General Tourism Law



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Amendments to Mexico's General Tourism Law (Ley General de Turismo) (the "Law"), effective November 14, 2026, introduce new child-protection obligations for tourism service providers across Mexico. Although the obligations are already in force, important questions remain about how to implement them in practice.

Compliance is particularly important for hotels, resorts, timeshare and cruise ship operators, restaurants and bars serving tourists, as well as families traveling with minors.

What Do the New Amendments Require?

The amendments introduce two new obligations under Article 58 of the Law:

- Tourism service providers must carry out preventive measures and protocols defined by the competent authorities to detect possible offenses against children and adolescents.

- Before providing services, either in person or electronically, providers must require tourists accompanied by minors to establish kinship, parental authority, guardianship, legal custody or, where applicable, legal age through official documentation.

- If the required relationship or legal status cannot be established, providers must deny the service and notify the appropriate investigative authorities.

What Remains Unclear?

The amendment specifies what providers must verify but does not identify which documents must be accepted. As of November 24, 2026, no official regulations, guidelines or protocols have been published. Questions remain regarding acceptable documentation, physical and digital copies, verification frequency and the treatment of minors traveling with adults who are not their parents.

What Should Tourism Service Providers Do Now?

Until the government issues official protocols, tourism service providers should develop and implement their own documented interim guidance and procedures now.

Practical steps include:

- Reviewing reservation, pre-arrival and guest verification procedures, including electronic processes.
- Establishing a tiered approach to requesting identification, birth certificates and, where appropriate, documentation establishing legal authority.
- Developing internal escalation procedures and reviewing policies relating to service denial, payments and refunds.
- Training guest-facing staff and updating pre-arrival communications.
- Reviewing the handling and retention of personal information relating to minors.
- Monitoring further guidance from the competent authorities.

What Should Families Traveling to Mexico Consider?

Families traveling with minors should prepare documentation in advance, including traveling with both valid passports and copies of children's birth certificates.

Where parents' last names differ, traveling with additional supporting documentation is advisable, including original birth certificates or adoption papers. Adults traveling with children who are not their own should consider carrying notarized parental authorization and any relevant legal documentation.

Travelers should also contact their accommodations provider before arrival to establish what documentation may be requested.

IMPORTANT NOTE: These are preliminary recommendations, not documentary requirements established by the reforms to the Law.

Relationship with Immigration Requirements

The amendment does not amend, replace or supersede Mexican immigration requirements for entering or leaving Mexico.

Requirements for minors (for example, the Formato SAM) are governed separately, and compliance with one framework does not satisfy the other. Providers should not assume that guests who cleared immigration have satisfied these new requirements under the Law; travelers should prepare for both.

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For further guidance on these requirements and their implications for your operations or travel plans, please contact:



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