

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · ALABAMA

Turkish Consular and Apostille Matters from Alabama 2026

The mission that covers Alabama is in Houston and the district was verified both ways. General business has a single morning window, and visa applications are a separate thirty minutes.

SHORT ANSWER

Alabama falls within the consular district of the **Consulate General of the Republic of Türkiye in Houston**, and we write that on the strength of **a two-way check** rather than an assumption: the mission's own site lists its district as **eight states** and Alabama appears on both pages carrying the list; and **the pages of the five other Turkish consulates general in the United States were read in the same sweep and the word Alabama appears on none of them**. Two things to know before you travel, and both are about hours: **the mission publishes a single window for general consular business** and that window is mornings only; **visa applications are taken in a separate thirty-minute window**. The good news: **all three attaché offices are in the same building as the consulate general**.

The mission and its hours

ITEM	DETAIL
Mission	Consulate General of the Republic of Türkiye in Houston
Address	5333 Westheimer Road, Suite 1050, Houston, TX 77056
Switchboard	+1 346 439 65 60
After-hours emergency line	+1 832 774 18 61. The contact page prints the same number under two separate headings , so it is one line
Consular call center, 24 hours a day	+1 888 566 76 56
E-mail	consulate.houston@mfa.gov.tr
Working hours	Monday to Friday, 09:00 to 12:30 . The mission publishes no afternoon counter hours for general consular work; this is the only window published
Visa application hours	14:00 to 14:30 , a separate thirty-minute window . The mission's own instruction is to make an appointment before visiting. Anyone arriving at another time will be turned away
Consul General	Çağrı Sakar. Diplomatic postings rotate , so check before you travel

The attaché offices are in the same building

All three attaché offices publish the consulate general's own address, so **a school equivalence errand and a consular errand can be done in one building**. The appointments are still separate; work out in advance whether both fit in one day, because **the general counter window is mornings only**.

OFFICE	TELEPHONE AND E-MAIL
Office of the Attaché for Religious Services	+1 832 798 01 35
Office of the Educational Attaché	+1 713 325 28 62 · houston@meb.gov.tr
Office of the Commercial Attaché	+1 832 623 7144 (from the United States) · +90 312 204 8179 (the page's own note: for calls from Türkiye only) · houston@ticaret.gov.tr

The consular district: Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas. The mission's two pages print the list **in different orders** but the membership is identical; that is an ordering difference, not a conflict. **For everyone living in Alabama the nearest Turkish mission is in another state**, and **we publish no distance and no driving time**. What can be said is this: Houston lies to the **west** of Alabama and the journey is **out of state** from every settlement.

What runs through the mission

- Birth notification and civil registry matters · marriage notification · passport matters
- Military service matters · notarial matters, powers of attorney and signature certification
- Turkish citizenship matters · estate matters · education and visa headings
- Booking, checking and cancelling appointments run through the mission's own menu, which is split into **consular procedures for Turkish citizens** and **visa pre-applications for foreign nationals**.
- **We do not publish a document list here**. Every procedure has its own fee and its own list, and we could not verify them one by one this round. **Confirm the list through the appointment menu and the call center**.

A NOTARY TRAP SPECIFIC TO THIS STATE, READ IT

- Alabama **no longer issues a marriage license**; a marriage is created by filing with a probate court a form signed before an **Alabama notary public**.
- **And certification at a consulate is not accepted for that form**: the signature required is that of a notary commissioned by Alabama. An attorney general opinion relayed by the agency states that **a form notarized by a notarizing official within the U.S. Department of State is not accepted**.
- **So do not plan to have that form witnessed in Houston**. The whole procedure is set out in the moving checklist guide; read it before you book a consular appointment.

Three things to try before you travel

- 1 **e-Devlet.** Civil registry, address and some document matters can be handled remotely; check here first which of them can, turkiye.gov.tr.
- 2 **The call center.** Open around the clock, so **the time difference does not apply here**, and it is a quick way to learn which documents you need: **+1 888 566 76 56**.
- 3 **Courier or post.** Some procedures run by sending documents. Ask the call center which ones are accepted; **do not send documents on your own initiative**.

2026 closing days: on the holiday list published on the mission's own contact page, **12 October** and **29 October** are immediately ahead; the list also carries 11 November, 26 November, 24 December and 25 December 2026, and 1 January and 18 January 2027. **The list is annual** and is republished each year; check the current one before you book.

Apostille: the office, the fee and the two lines that send a package back

ITEM	DETAIL
Office	Alabama Secretary of State, authentications unit
Mailing address	P.O. Box 5616, Montgomery, AL 36103-5616
Telephone	(334) 242-7200
Fax	(334) 242-4993
Fee	5.00 dollars per document. Because it is a fee figure, confirm it on the office's own page before you pay
How to start	The office's own instruction: download the required application form , complete it and send it with your document. The office also publishes an authentication handbook, a Spanish version of it, and a public officials database for finding the correct county probate judge

THE TWO LINES THAT SEND A PACKAGE BACK

- **Documents in a foreign language.** The office's answer, word for word: **all documents in a foreign language must be accompanied by a notarized English translation**. Sending a Turkish document without a translation brings the package back, and this is the likeliest reason a Turkish reader's package returns.
- **Federal documents.** The office's answer again, word for word: **no, federal documents are not authenticated at the state level**, and the reader is directed to the U.S. Department of State's authentications office. So **a certificate of naturalization does not go to Montgomery**.

APOSTILLE OR CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION: A FORK WE DO NOT RESOLVE

- The office's own sentence: if the country where the document will be used is **a party** to the Hague Convention, an **apostille** is attached; if it is not a party, a **certificate of authentication** is attached. The same sentence draws a distinction: being **a member** of the Hague Conference and being **a party** to the Convention are not the same thing.
- The office publishes a list showing which treatment applies to which country. **That list did not open this round, so we make no claim in this guide about which treatment applies to Türkiye.** Check the office's own country list or call; **asking for the wrong treatment means the package comes back.**
- **For an apostille** the document must bear the official signature and seal of a commissioned **Alabama notary public**, a **county probate judge** or the **state registrar of vital records**. **All birth and death certificates requiring an apostille must bear the signature of the sitting state registrar of vital records.**
- **For a certificate of authentication** there is an extra step: any document that passed through a notary also requires a **county certification** from the probate office of the county where the notary is commissioned. So **two separate offices** are involved on that route.
- **The physical requirement:** a **wet signature** and an **embossed or inked seal** of a sitting Alabama public official. An ordinary photocopy does not meet it.
- **A separate rule for school documents:** school documents must also **pass through a notary first**. A school official's signature and the school seal **are not accepted**. A reader sending a diploma or transcript should plan for that from the start.

And an asymmetry: birth, death and marriage records in this state are kept in **one statewide register** and a copy can be collected from **any county health department**. **But being easy at the counter is not the same as being easy for an apostille:** an ordinary copy collected at the counter may not bear the signature required. **When you request the document, say that it will be used abroad and that it is needed for an apostille.** The agency's own page says **certain restrictions apply** to apostilled and exemplified copies of birth and death certificates; **what those restrictions are could not be read in this research.**

- 1 Obtain the document with the right signature.** For a birth or death certificate, make sure it bears the signature of **the state registrar of vital records**.
- 2 Have it translated and the translation notarized if needed;** that is mandatory for a document in a foreign language.
- 3 Get the authentication last.** An authenticated document cannot be altered afterwards.
- 4 Do not send a federal document to the state.** Documents such as a certificate of naturalization go to the federal authentications office.
- 5 Do not confuse the reverse direction:** Turkish documents you will use in the United States for your immigration case are **apostilled in Türkiye** and submitted here with a **certified English translation**. No office in Alabama performs that step.

MILITARY SERVICE, THE TIME DIFFERENCE AND FLIGHTS

- **We publish no figures on military service.** The conditions and amounts for paid and foreign-currency military service change from period to period and the current version could not be verified from an official source this round. **If you plan around a wrong amount, you carry the loss.** The right step is to call the call center and ask what applies to your own birth year and status. Amounts circulating on forums generally belong to older periods.
- **If you have become a U.S. citizen:** for dual citizens, having the U.S. citizenship reported to the Turkish civil registry is generally a precondition on the military service side.
- **The time difference:** Alabama uses the **Central time zone** and **the whole state is in it.** Türkiye does not observe daylight saving and Alabama does, so the gap is **8 hours in summer and 9 hours in winter.** The clock goes back on **November 1, 2026**, so the gap grows by an hour after that week.
- **The consulate is in the same time zone,** so you do not need to convert its published appointment and telephone hours.
- **The window for calling Türkiye is narrow and runs in reverse:** when it is 17:00 in Türkiye it is 09:00 here in summer. The two channels that remove the problem are e-Devlet and the **call center open around the clock.**
- **Flights:** research **found no international destination** on the nonstop destination lists published by the state's airports, so a trip to Istanbul begins with at least one connection. **We do not write that there is none;** confirm the routing on the carrier's own site. **A name trap:** both airports carry International in their names, **but that does not mean there is scheduled international passenger service.**



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN ALABAMA

Have a question about your immigration status?

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