

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · DELAWARE

Turkish Consulate and Apostille Matters from Delaware 2026

The mission that covers you is in New York and the visa counter is open two days a week. The apostille is in Dover and the cheapest in this series, but an electronically notarized document is not accepted.

SHORT ANSWER

Delaware is in the district of the **Consulate General in New York**. We read this on two separate pages of the mission's own site and both name Delaware: the district is **New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware**. We also close off one common misdirection up front: the mission writes on its own page that there are **six** Turkish consulates general in the United States, and **there is no consulate general in Washington**, where consular matters belong to the Embassy. So your counterpart is New York, not Washington, and **the visa counter is open on Monday and Tuesday only**. The **apostille** required for a document to be used in Türkiye is handled in Dover, and **this is the cheapest arrangement we have seen in this series**: personal documents cost **\$30 in total for all of them if they are submitted at the same time**.

Which mission, which hours

ITEM	INFORMATION
Mission	Republic of Türkiye Consulate General in New York
District	New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware
Address	821 United Nations Plaza, 10017, New York City, NY
Switchboard	+1 212 351 7200
Duty officer, emergencies	+1 646 204 0011
Call center, 24 hours, 7 days	1-888-566-76-56
Email	consulate.newyork@mfa.gov.tr
Visa counter hours	Published on the mission's own page as Monday and Tuesday only : 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Other desks in the same building	Religious Affairs Attache +1 646 430 6589; Education Attache +1 212 687 8395; also Culture and Promotion, Trade and Economy attaches and a Health Cooperation Counselor

The visa counter being squeezed into two days is a planning matter of its own for a Delaware reader.

Smyrna to Manhattan is roughly 130 miles, so this is a day trip, not an errand, and in practice one way runs between two and a half and three and a half hours depending on the state of the bridge and the turnpike that day. **That distance is an ordinary road estimate, not a figure the mission publishes**, and we could not find it in any official distance table. Hitting the wrong day wastes the entire day, so confirm with the call center which day and which window your business is handled in before you set out. What is handled here: **passport renewals and first passports**, registering a child born in Delaware or a marriage performed here in the Turkish civil registry, **powers of attorney, signature certification, residence certificates**, reporting U.S. citizenship to the Turkish civil registry if you have naturalized, and visa pre-applications for people who are not Turkish citizens. Almost all of it runs **by appointment**; cancel the moment you know you cannot go, because at this distance an appointment slot is valuable.

Before you drive, in order

- 1 Call the call center first, 1-888-566-76-56.** It is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and it is the fastest way to learn which documents are required. **Driving to Manhattan with the wrong document is the most expensive mistake in this guide.**
- 2 Check the Turkish e-government portal for civil registry, address and some document matters,** turkiye.gov.tr; find out first which transactions are handled remotely.
- 3 Ask about the courier or mail route.** Some transactions run on document submission; ask the call center which ones are accepted and do not mail documents on your own initiative.
- 4 If an in-person visit is required, book the appointment, then plan the drive,** and account for **the visa counter's two-day window.**
- 5 If a document is going to Türkiye, handle the apostille in Dover first.** Mail time is needed, and this has to be finished **before** the New York appointment.
- 6 Ask the mission whether the document also needs a sworn translation and where it must be done. This is something to learn on the phone, not at the counter.**
- 7 Try to finish more than one errand per trip,** booking appointments on the same day or on consecutive days.
- 8 On military service we deliberately give no figures.** The conditions and the amounts for paid and overseas-payment military service change from period to period and we could not verify the current state from an official source this round; your counterpart is the call center and the mission's own announcements. **There are steps that cannot be reversed once a payment is made.**

Apostille: the cheapest in this series, with two strict rules

Türkiye is a party to the Hague Apostille Convention, so a document issued in Delaware needs **an apostille, not consular legalization**, to be used in Türkiye. The apostille is issued by the **Division of Corporations of the Secretary of State**; there is no separate apostille office and a notary cannot issue one. **The distance advantage for Smyrna is real:** Dover is about 11 miles south, so while every other door in this section is out of state (the consulate in New York, the passport agency and the immigration court in Philadelphia), the apostille is **effectively a local errand**. That distance is an ordinary road estimate.

ITEM	DETAIL
Personal, that is noncommercial, documents	\$30 for all documents submitted at the same time. The division sets up that discount itself and recommends bringing them all in one go
Commercial documents	\$30 per document; expedited service is available for an additional fee
By mail	Division of Corporations, John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal Street, Suite 4, Dover, DE 19901. You include a cover letter stating the purpose and the country where the document will be used ; the division writes that mail requests are generally processed the same business day
Return route	If you do not include a prepaid express mail or courier envelope, the document comes back by regular first class mail
In person	By appointment only , 302-739-3077. Documents for personal use are generally processed the same business day. General questions 302-739-3073

TWO STRICT RULES, AND THE MOST EXPENSIVE TRAP IN THIS SECTION

- **A remotely or electronically notarized document is not accepted for an apostille.** That is the most expensive trap here: someone who notarizes a document through an online notary service because it was easy gets turned away at the apostille stage and starts over with a **wet-signature Delaware notary**.
- **Every document in a foreign language must include an English translation, and both the foreign-language version and the English translation must be notarized.** The division does no translation and provides no notary service; you have the notarization done elsewhere first.
- **Who signed it matters:** the division apostilles documents signed by a **Delaware notary** or a **Delaware public official**. For documents of public record, a **certified copy** from the issuing Delaware state or county official is required, and in the division's own sentence those documents are never subject to notarization.
- **For documents filed with the state, each document is certified separately:** a single blanket certification letter is not accepted for an apostille. Some countries require a separate document showing the notary's commission and the division issues it; ask the Turkish authority in advance whether it wants one.
- **Bring them all at once.** The \$30 total covers all personal documents submitted at the same time, so coming back a week later with a second document costs you **another \$30**.
- **The state does not apostille a federal document.** Federal documents such as a certificate of naturalization or a U.S. passport do not go through the Secretary of State; they go to **the Department of State's office of authentications**. Someone who does not know this distinction mails the document to the wrong agency and loses weeks.

Vital records: Delaware splits records by their age

RECORD	WHERE	PHONE
Births, 1954 to the present	Office of vital statistics	302-744-4549

RECORD	WHERE	PHONE
Births, 1953 and earlier	Delaware Public Archives, 121 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd N, Dover, DE 19901	302-744-5000
Deaths, 1986 to the present / 1985 and earlier	Office of vital statistics / the archives	302-744-4549 / 302-744-5000
Marriages, 1976 to the present / 1975 and earlier	Office of vital statistics / the archives	302-744-4549 / 302-744-5000
Divorces, 1979 to the present	The family court of the county that granted the divorce. For Kent County, 400 Court Street, Dover, DE 19901, records section	From the court
Divorces, 1978 and earlier	For Kent County, the prothonotary of the county courthouse, 38 The Green, Dover, DE 19901	302-744-5000 (archives)

WE ARE NOT HIDING THE BIGGEST HOLE IN THIS FILE

- **The years are not fixed, they slide.** The state's page writes the boundaries as rolling ("older than 72 years," "newer than 40 years") and then illustrates them with example years, so the year figures above **slide by one every year**. If you are looking for a record near a boundary, call first.
- **A warning about the source page itself:** the state's guide page carries **unedited placeholder text** in some blocks, meaning parts of it are an unfinished template. The content about which office holds which records is real and usable, but **we quote nothing from those tip boxes**, and we read the absence of a document list on the page not as "no documents are required" but as **"the page does not say."**
- **What we could not find:** the **street address** of the office of vital statistics; its **fees**, including first and additional copies; the **identification list** it accepts and **whether a foreign passport is accepted as primary identification**; whether online ordering exists; and who may place an order.
- **The reason is an access problem, not a finding of absence:** the state health and social services agency's server is closed to automated requests. So we do not answer "can I obtain my child's birth certificate with my passport" by guessing here.
- **What to do:** call **302-744-4549** and ask five questions in this order. Which identification do you accept; **is a foreign passport sufficient on its own**; what is the fee and how much is an additional copy; which channels are open and how long do they take; and who may order a record. **Ask for the answers in writing** and place the order after that.
- **Count how many copies you will need up front:** school enrollment asks for the birth certificate, the clerk may ask for one for a marriage license, apostille work needs its own copies, and consular transactions and insurance applications may ask for copies too. On the phone, **be sure to ask the price of an additional copy**.

Marriage license: a third interpreter is required

The name of the issuing authority appears for the first time in this series: **the county's Clerk of the Peace**, not a court clerk or a county clerk. For Kent County the address is **555 Bay Rd., Dover, Delaware 19901**, the clerk directly at **302-744-2346**, Clerk@kentcountyde.gov. **Licenses are issued weekdays 8:00 a.m. to 4:15**

p.m., and **both parties must be present together within that window**. The most critical line for a Turkish reader is one the county writes on its own page: **a third-party translator is required if one party does not speak English; the third-party translator must be at least 18 years old and have proper identification. The county does not supply the translator**, so you bring them, and **this is the most common reason Turkish couples are turned away at the counter**.

TOPIC	RULE
Payment	The office's own wording: this office accepts cash only . There is no card option
License fee	\$70 in total for Delaware residents, \$120 in total for nonresidents
The ceremony fee is separate	Weekday regular hours \$50 / \$100; weekday after hours \$75 / \$125; Saturday \$100 / \$150; off site \$100 / \$100 (resident / nonresident). Concretely : a nonresident couple marrying at the office on a Saturday pays \$270, all of it in cash
Waiting period and validity	The license must be obtained at least 24 hours before the ceremony regardless of residence; it is valid 30 days from issuance and the ceremony must take place inside Delaware
Identification	In the county's words, a DMV-issued identification or license showing date of birth and proof of address, a passport , or a military identification. So a passport is expressly on the list
Authority to ask for more	From the same page: the clerk may require additional documentation such as a birth certificate or Social Security card to verify identity. That is why this guide makes you no promise that a number will not be asked for
A previous marriage	The original or a certified copy of the divorce or annulment decree , or a certified death certificate; if a former surname was resumed, the court documents for the name change
Age	All applicants must be 18 years old . The county's sentence: no marriage license will be issued to anyone under 18. There is not even a parental consent route
The officiant	Must give the clerk a copy of the commissioning document before the ceremony, and it must carry the name, address, phone number and the title used; the title cannot be "Mr.", "Mrs." or "marriage officer"
Blood test	The subsection governing the premarital physical examination and serological test was repealed on July 23, 1982, so there is no blood test

- **If there is a divorce in Türkiye**, the original or a certified copy of the decree is required, and in practice that means a **certified decree** obtained in Türkiye, a **certified English translation**, and an **apostille obtained in Türkiye**. Note this: **Delaware's apostille office apostilles Delaware documents, not Turkish ones**. Handle this before you leave Türkiye or through a relative there.
- **We leave out three claims you will see in other sources**, because we **could not find** them on the county's current page: the waiver of the 24-hour wait for military personnel; a permission letter for applicants on probation; and self-solemnization, recognition of common-law marriage, and an affidavit form for an applicant without a number. We say neither that these exist nor that they do not; if that is your situation, ask the clerk.
- **After the ceremony** the completed license goes back to the clerk for recording and the statute gives the officiant a short period; **we could not read how many days that is from the statutory text**, so we print no figure. Tell the officiant to ask the clerk about their deadline.

Time difference and Istanbul flights

PERIOD	DELAWARE	DIFFERENCE FROM TÜRKİYE
October 8, 2026 to October 31, 2026	Eastern daylight time	Türkiye is 7 hours ahead
November 1, 2026 to March 7, 2027	Eastern standard time	Türkiye is 8 hours ahead
After March 8, 2027	Eastern daylight time	Türkiye is 7 hours ahead

The most useful sentence in this table: if you want to reach a government office or a bank in Türkiye that closes at 5:00 p.m., between early November and early March you have to call **before 9:00 a.m.** Delaware time; in summer you have until 10:00 a.m. That window shifts twice a year, so leave yourself a calendar reminder. A source note: we accepted that all of Delaware is in the Eastern time zone from the consistency of the hours state agencies publish, not from a single official time zone page.

THERE IS NO NONSTOP FLIGHT TO ISTANBUL, AND WE NAME THE NEAREST VERIFIED ONE

- **No nonstop from Delaware:** the state's only commercial airport is small and operates no scheduled international service.
- **None from Philadelphia either.** Turkish Airlines **does not appear** on that airport's own published airline list. That is a finding; it does not mean "there has never been an Istanbul flight," it means the carrier is not on the airport's own list. Single-connection itineraries through the hubs of the carriers that are listed look plausible, but **the airlines come from the official list and the routing inference is ours**, so we print neither a flight number nor a connection time.
- **The nearest airport with a verified nonstop is Washington Dulles:** the airport authority's own page states that Turkish Airlines flies nonstop from there to Istanbul **twice daily**.
- **A concrete detail for families on the same page:** the carrier runs a stopover program for passengers connecting in Istanbul with a wait of **at least 20 hours**; it provides two complimentary hotel nights in economy and three in business, usable outbound or on the return. Confirm the terms with the carrier.
- **A useful feature of the small airport:** a major U.S. carrier **sells Wilmington as a departure point**; you buy the ticket from there, you check in and clear security in Delaware, and the Philadelphia leg runs as a **bus transfer**, so there is no driving to Philadelphia, no parking there and no second security screening. **We could not find the bus travel time or the check-in cutoff**; ask the carrier about both. Parking at Wilmington is **\$12 a day** and **rises by 50 cents from November 1, 2026**.
- **We print no distances.** We **could not find** the driving distance or the driving time from Smyrna to the Philadelphia airport, the Wilmington airport or Washington Dulles **in any official table**, so we give no figure; measure your route on your own map, because the Dulles option saves flight time while adding hours on the road.
- **And the short version of this section:** you already carry a passport when you leave the country, but on domestic flights the difference is real. **Do not go to the airport without your passport**; the driving privilege card does not substitute for identification.

How to set the order

For documents going to Türkiye the order is: **obtain the document, have it notarized by a wet-signature Delaware notary, add the notarized English translation if one is needed, get the apostille in Dover, then use it.** If you skip a step and send the document to Türkiye, going back and starting over costs weeks. For Turkish documents you will use in the United States for your immigration file the direction reverses: those documents are **apostilled in Türkiye** and submitted here with a **certified English translation**. If your child was born in Delaware or you married here, you will need the **apostilled original** of the certificate for the civil registry; finish that **before the New York appointment**, because the apostille is obtained in Dover and mail time is needed. If you have naturalized, reporting it to the Turkish civil registry also runs through the same mission and is generally a precondition for military service matters for dual citizens. One last detail: **the apostille certifies the original of the document, it does not translate the content**; ask the authority in Türkiye that will receive it whether they also require a sworn translation.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN DELAWARE

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients across Delaware, in Turkish and English. Free evaluation:
clinchlaw.com/free-evaluation · +1 866-491-7669
Office: 321 N Central Expy, Ste 206, McKinney, TX 75070

Attorney responsible for this guide: Asim Clinch, Esq., Clinch Law Firm P.C. Attorney Asim Clinch is a member of the Missouri Bar (No. 76084) and practices U.S. federal immigration law.

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