

FOR TURKISH CITIZENS IN DES PLAINES

Turkish Consulate General in Chicago: Services Guide 2026, One Train from Des Plaines

Passports, Turkish ID cards, birth and marriage registration, military service, powers of attorney and apostilles. How to book, how to get there and what to watch for.

SHORT ANSWER

The consulate is at 455 N. Cityfront Plaza Drive, Suite 2900 (NBC Tower, 29th floor), Chicago, IL 60611. Phone +1 312 263 0644, with an after-hours emergency line on +1 773 386 3213. In-person service is by appointment only, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, booked at konsolosluk.gov.tr. From Des Plaines the trip is a train ride: the Metra UP-NW line reaches Ogilvie in about 40 minutes for \$5.50 one way. The apostille on Illinois documents for use in Türkiye comes from the Index Department at \$2 per document, and it can be done by mail.

Contact and appointments

ITEM	DETAIL
Address	455 N. Cityfront Plaza Dr., Suite 2900, Chicago, IL 60611 (NBC Tower, 29th floor)
Phone	+1 312 263 0644 · after hours +1 773 386 3213
Email and fax	consulate.chicago@mfa.gov.tr · fax +1 312 263 1449
Office hours	Weekdays 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
In-person service	By appointment only, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Information by phone	2 to 4 p.m.
Consular Call Center (24/7)	+90 312 292 29 29
Consular district	13 states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin
Attache	The Education Attache is at the same address, chicago@meb.gov.tr

- 1 konsolosluk.gov.tr → Randevu Al (book an appointment)
- 2 Consular services for Turkish citizens → Consulate General in Chicago

- 3 Pick the service. The "Randevu Al" button on the consulate's own site goes to the same system, and you can check or cancel your appointment there.
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Getting there from Des Plaines

- **By train (the easier way):** the Des Plaines station, 1501 Miner St., is on Metra's Union Pacific Northwest (UP-NW) line in fare Zone 3. Scheduled times to Ogilvie Transportation Center (500 W. Madison) range from 28 to 51 minutes, about 40 on average, at \$5.50 one way. The station has a ticket machine and the waiting room is open 5 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 - **The last stretch:** from Ogilvie it is about a mile east to NBC Tower; the walk takes 20 to 25 minutes and most people take a taxi or a rideshare for that part. Allow about an hour and ten minutes door to door.
 - **By car:** about 19.5 miles and 33 minutes with no traffic. But your appointment falls between 9:30 a.m. and noon, which is the morning rush, and downtown parking is on top of that. If it is your first visit, the train is the lower-risk choice.
 - **Timing:** applications are only taken in the morning. If your appointment is at 9:30, take a train leaving Des Plaines no later than 8 a.m.
 - **Parking:** the station has seven lots with 310 spaces, and the lots are run by the City of Des Plaines (847-391-5300), not by Metra. Pay through the Passport Parking app.
 - **Cumberland station:** 475 E. Northwest Highway, on the same line and in the same zone; the waiting room is open 24 hours but there is no ticket machine, so you buy from the conductor or in the Ventra app.
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Being close does not make the appointment easier

The consular district covers thirteen states. People coming from Detroit, Minneapolis or Cincinnati share the same calendar, and appointments close weeks in advance. A short trip does not mean a short queue: look at the booking screen the day you realize you need something, and do not wait for the last month of your passport. Cancelled slots fall back into the system, so checking the screen several days in a row pays off. Most readers of this series buy a plane ticket for a consular errand; the advantage of living in Des Plaines is that the same errand is one train ride.

Passports, ID cards and powers of attorney

A passport is issued in person by appointment only; fingerprints are taken, so there is no mail option. A Turkish ID card is the same. A power of attorney is drawn up only inside the consulate building: if you need one for a sale, an inheritance matter or a court case in Türkiye, get the text from your lawyer beforehand, because the appointment slot is short. Fees vary by service and by year; confirm the current list with the consulate or the call center before your appointment rather than trusting old figures found online.

Birth and marriage registration

- **The document:** when you register a child born in Des Plaines, or a marriage made here, in the Turkish civil registry, use a certified long-form copy.

- **Birth certificate:** from the Cook County Clerk or the state health department (IDPH). The nearest Clerk counter to Des Plaines is the Skokie Courthouse, 5600 W. Old Orchard Rd., Room 149, 847-470-7233. A certified copy is \$15 for the first and \$4 for each additional one, and it is printed while you wait when you apply in person. For a birth elsewhere in Illinois you apply to IDPH, and a mail application takes about 12 weeks.
- **Do not confuse it with Skokie's own counter:** the Village of Skokie health and human services office also issues birth certificates, but only for births that happened in Skokie. For a baby born in Des Plaines you go to the Clerk's counter in the Skokie Courthouse.
- **Marriage certificate:** a certified copy from the Cook County Clerk. The license is \$60, both parties apply in person, it takes effect the day after it is issued and is valid 60 days, and it only works for a ceremony held in Cook County. A foreign passport appears on the Clerk's list as acceptable on its own, but that information comes from an older page capture, so call the office to confirm before you go.
- Then you get the **apostille** (below) and register the document with the Consulate General.
- If you change your name, update your USCIS and SSA records too. In Illinois a name change through marriage is not a court matter: you take the marriage certificate to SSA and the update is free.

Military service (askerlik)

- **Registration (yoklama):** men born in 2007 and anyone liable without a deferment must complete registration by December 31, 2026, through the consulate or e-Devlet.
- **Paid exemption, July 1 to December 31, 2026:** the foreign-currency equivalent of 472,653.60 Turkish lira. The Consulate General in Chicago collects it in dollars at the Central Bank rate on the day of payment, plus a transfer fee; ask the consulate for the current amount. The figure changes on January 1, 2027, and late December appointments are the first to fill.
- **Conditions:** working in the United States with a residence or work permit, at least 3 years (1,095 days) of work abroad excluding time spent in Türkiye, completion of the Ministry of National Defense [distance course](#), and residence in the consular district. Des Plaines is in Illinois, so you meet that last condition directly. Applications are in person by appointment only.
- **Dual citizens:** people born in the United States, or who came as minors and naturalized, can defer until the end of age 35. The U.S. citizenship has to be registered in the Turkish civil registry first. Multiple citizens do not have to meet the work condition; 3 years abroad is enough.
- **F-1 students:** deferment goes through the Chicago Education Attache at chicago@meb.gov.tr. The attache is in the same building as the consulate, so one train ride can cover both errands.

Apostilles: an Illinois document for use in Türkiye

- 1 **Get the original first.** Des Plaines is in Cook County, so you get a certified birth certificate from the Cook County Clerk or IDPH, a marriage certificate from the Cook County Clerk, and a divorce decree from the Cook County Circuit Clerk.
- 2 **If notarization is needed** (private documents such as a power of attorney, an undertaking or a declaration), have it notarized by an Illinois notary. A notary from another state cannot be authenticated in Illinois. Do not take a document signed by a court clerk or a judge to a notary; those are already official.

- 3 The apostille:** Illinois Secretary of State, Index Department, 160 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 100, Chicago, IL 60601, 312-814-8218, weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (the last half hour is document review only). The fee is **\$2 per document**, and each document needs its own apostille. Pay with a single check or money order made out to the Illinois Secretary of State; ask the office about cash and cards.

ROUTE	HOW	TIME
By mail (the most practical from the suburbs)	The Application for Authentication form, the original documents and a stamped self-addressed envelope, to the Index Department	7 to 14 business days
In person, Index Department	160 N. LaSalle St., Suite 100	While you wait, first come first served
In person, Chicago Flagship	125 W. Monroe St., 312-814-5896	While you wait
Suburban counters	Melrose Park (1903 N. Mannheim Rd), Lake Zurich (951 S. Rand Rd), Aurora (970 N. Lake St, Suite B)	While you wait

BEFORE YOU GO TO THE CONSULATE

- If you are not in a hurry, the mail route is the sensible one from Des Plaines and saves the trip downtown altogether. For something urgent, the Melrose Park counter is the nearest suburban option, south along Mannheim Road; call first to confirm they are doing apostilles that day.
- Because it is only \$2 per document, it makes sense to apostille several certified copies of a birth certificate, a marriage certificate and a diploma in one go.
- If you plan both errands on one day, put the consulate appointment in the morning and the apostille in the afternoon; the Index Department and the consulate are not within walking distance of each other, but both are around the Loop.
- The consulate is closed on both U.S. federal holidays and Turkish public holidays. The announcement list on its site is not kept current, so if a relative is traveling in from out of town, have them confirm with the call center.
- Federal documents such as an FBI criminal record check or a certificate of naturalization are apostilled not by Illinois but by the U.S. Department of State Office of Authentications: Form DS-4194, \$20 per document. An apostille does not translate the document; a sworn translation may still be needed in Türkiye.

DO NOT CONFUSE THIS WITH YOUR U.S. IMMIGRATION CASE

The consulate handles matters relating to Türkiye. Your U.S. visa, green card or citizenship applications are matters for USCIS and the U.S. Department of State. Türkiye has been a party to the Hague Apostille Convention since 1985, so an apostilled Illinois document does not need separate consular certification. If a green card application is pending, check your advance parole position before you travel to Türkiye. And if you naturalize, remember to report your U.S. citizenship to the Turkish civil registry; for dual citizens that is a precondition for a military service deferment.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN DES PLAINES

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Des Plaines and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English.

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