

FOR TURKISH RESIDENTS OF GARY

Turkish Consular Business and Apostilles from Gary 2026

Of the five settlements this is the one guide with an advantage: the consulate is in the same metropolitan area and the same time zone, and the nearest passport agency is in the same city. The apostille office, however, is in the opposite direction.

SHORT ANSWER

All of Indiana, this city included, falls within the jurisdiction of the **Consulate General of Türkiye in Chicago**; the mission's own site names **13 Midwest states** as its area of responsibility and Indiana appears second on that list on two separate pages. **There is no Turkish mission inside Indiana.** And of the five settlements in this guide, **this is the one with an advantage:** the consulate is in the Chicago metropolitan area, which makes it a day's errand rather than an expedition, **and the consulate is in the same time zone as you.** The published hours **are your hours**; a reader living anywhere else in the state has to add an hour when reading them, and you do not. **We print no distance figure.**

Which mission, which hours

ITEM	DETAIL
Mission	Consulate General of the Republic of Türkiye in Chicago
Address	455 N. Cityfront Plaza Dr. (NBC Tower), Suite 2900, Chicago, IL 60611, 29th floor
Switchboard	+1 312 263 0644
Duty officer, out-of-hours emergency	+1 773 386 3213
Email	consulate.chicago@mfa.gov.tr
Consular call center, 24 hours, 7 days	+90 312 292 29 29
Working hours	Weekdays 9:00 to 12:30 and 13:30 to 16:30 Central, which is your own clock
In-person appointments	9:30 to 12:00 only , in your own clock
Telephone applications	14:00 to 16:00, in your own clock
Consul General	Tahir Bora Atatanır

Jurisdiction

13 Midwest states; Indiana is on the list

THE SAME TIME ZONE: THE QUIETEST ADVANTAGE IN THIS GUIDE

- **The published hour is your hour.** In the other four settlements the reader has to read the telephone application window as 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in their own clock and will otherwise ring an hour early. **Here there is no such arithmetic.** What the screen says is what it means.
- **But the arithmetic returns when you deal with the rest of the state.** The apostille office, the immigration court, the state motor vehicle agency and the statewide legal aid line are all on Eastern; you read their published hours by subtracting an hour. So **this city has two separate conversions and they run in opposite directions:** Türkiye and Chicago business in your own clock, business with the state capital an hour ahead.
- **The in-person window is two and a half hours a day,** which is tight for anyone trying to finish two errands in one day. Try to take the first appointment of the morning.
- **Cancel the moment you know you cannot go.** One mission covers the whole Midwest and an appointment slot is genuinely valuable. **Being close is not a reason to waste one;** that slot could go to someone travelling from the far end of the state.

TWO JOBS IN ONE TRIP: THE PASSPORT AGENCY IS IN THE SAME CITY

- This may be the single most practical sentence in this guide. **There is no passport agency in Indiana,** and on the department's list one of the two nearest to Indiana is **in the same city as the Consulate General.**
- **For the other four settlements these are two separate long journeys;** here they are one day's plan. If you have an urgent U.S. passport errand and a consular appointment at the same time, put them in the same trip.
- **But book consecutive half-days, not consecutive hours.** Two different institutions, two buildings, two security checks; leaving a short gap loses you both appointments.
- **We print neither address nor hours for the passport agency,** because the source pages could not be read directly this round. Read the agency appointment rules in our official offices guide.
- **One caution:** an agency appointment is given only to people who meet the urgency threshold. **Being close does not put you in the urgent category.**

What runs through the mission

- Birth notification and civil registry matters; marriage notification and death notification.
- Passport renewal and a first passport; Turkish citizenship matters, **including reporting U.S. citizenship to the civil registry.**
- Military service matters; notarial acts, powers of attorney and signature certification.
- Judicial matters, criminal record certificates and service of process; e-Devlet credentials; Turkish driving license renewal.
- Employment and social security matters; estate matters.

- **Almost all of these are seen by appointment, and we do not print the document lists.** Every procedure has its own fee and its own list and we could not verify them one by one this round. **Being close does not make it cheaper to arrive with the wrong papers;** confirm the list from the appointment menu and the call center. The jurisdiction detail is in our [Indiana guide](#).

- 1 **Try e-Devlet.** Civil registry, address and some document matters can be done remotely; check there first.
- 2 **Call the call center, +90 312 292 29 29.** Open 24 hours, seven days, so there is no time zone problem at all, and it is the quickest way to find out which documents are needed.
- 3 **Ask about courier or post.** Some procedures run by sending documents; ask which ones are accepted and do not send papers on your own initiative.
- 4 **If you need an apostille, finish it before the appointment.** The office is at the state capital, works by appointment only and is on Eastern time.
- 5 **Finish more than one errand in a trip** and book appointments on the same day or on consecutive half-days.

THE ATTACHÉ OFFICES IN THE SAME BUILDING

- **Office of the Educational Attaché:** same address and floor, +1 312 263 0644 ext. 811, chicago@meb.gov.tr. A school record in Türkiye or a diploma equivalence does not require a trip to a different city and **can be added to the same appointment day**.
- **Office of the Commercial Attaché:** same address and floor, ext. 888 and 812, chicago@trade.gov.tr.
- **Office of the Press Attaché:** same address and floor, ext. 835, chicago@iletisim.gov.tr.
- **Having all three in the same building is worth more from here.** Seen from this city, **knocking on three doors in a single day** is genuinely possible.

Military service: we print no figures, and we say why

- Military service matters run through the consulate and sit as a separate heading on the mission's own list of procedures.
- **We print no amount, no age limit and no period here:** the conditions and fees for paid and foreign-currency military service change from period to period and we **could not verify** the current position from an official source this round. Planning around a wrong figure would be the worst service this guide could do you.
- **The right step:** call the call center and ask what applies to your own year of birth and status. Figures circulating on forums and private consultancy sites usually belong to earlier periods, and some steps cannot be undone once payment is made.
- **The call center being open 24 hours is worth more here,** because the gap with Türkiye is **eight hours in summer and nine in winter**, an hour more than in the rest of the state, so the overlap of working hours is narrower still.
- **If you have naturalized:** for dual citizens, reporting U.S. citizenship to the Turkish civil registry is generally a precondition on the military service side.

- **If you need a power of attorney, do not break the order.** Documents may require notarization, and for a document heading to an apostille that step comes first. **We found no verified free notary in this city;** we do not say there is none, we say the research could not find one. Ask the price in advance and make sure the notarial certificate is complete.

The apostille: four rules hit a Turkish reader, and two journeys run opposite ways

Both Türkiye and the United States are parties to the Hague Apostille Convention, so a document issued here needs **an apostille rather than consular legalization** to be used in Türkiye. On the Hague Conference's list the body shown for Indiana is the **Indiana Secretary of State**, and this is the longest link in the chain for this reader: **the only authentication office in the state is at the state capital**, at 302 W. Washington Street, Room E-018, with **no branch offices**, open **by appointment only and on Eastern time**. The fee is **\$2.00 per authentication issued**, non-refundable, and normal turnaround is **one to two business days**; with an appointment **10 documents** are processed while you wait, without one **5**. The full table, the payment methods and the telephone conflict are in **our official offices guide**.

FOUR RULES THAT HIT A TURKISH READER DIRECTLY

- **The office does not translate, and the translation has to go through a notary.** The agency's own answer: we do not translate documents, you must have them translated and **have the translation notarized** before the office can process them. **That is the most important line in this section for a Turkish reader.** The order is: get the document, translate it if needed, notarize the translation, then take it for the apostille.
- **A marriage license is a two-stop errand.** It must first be certified by the **circuit court clerk of the county where the marriage took place**; only then does it go to the state. If you married in this county the first stop is the Lake County Clerk, and that office is **not in this city but at the county seat**. **If you married in a different Indiana county, the first stop is that county.**
- **Indiana records only.** A birth certificate issued by another state, or a diploma earned in another state, goes to that state's own authority. **This is a common mistake in this city:** a document issued on the other side of the line is not authenticated by this office. A household living here but working, marrying or having a child across the line should know that from the start.
- **Federal documents are a different door.** A certificate of naturalization, a U.S. passport and an FBI background check go to the **U.S. Department of State's authentications office**, not to the state. A document issued by a federal court is certified by that court's clerk.
- **The office's own warning in capitals:** authentications issued by this office **may not be used in the United States**. If an Indiana institution is asking you for an apostilled document, what it wants is probably not an apostille; ask before you pay.
- **On fee-exempt documents, two official pages do not give the same list.** One lists **birth and death certificates, adoption documents, student transcripts and diplomas**. The same office's question and answer page says **Indiana-issued birth and death certificates, Indiana school records**, adoption papers and documents generated by the office itself. **The two lists do not match exactly;** ask by telephone before your appointment.

This guide's own sequencing problem: the two journeys go in opposite directions

- 1 **Get the document.** For an Indiana birth or marriage record the detail is below.
 - 2 **Translate it if needed and have the translation notarized.** We found no verified free notary in this city; ask the price in advance.
 - 3 **Go to the state capital for the apostille**, that is, **east**. By appointment and on Eastern time; the time you are given **falls an hour earlier in your own clock**.
 - 4 **Go to Chicago for the consular appointment**, that is, **west**. On Central time, your own clock.
 - 5 **The order cannot be changed and the change of direction is not free.** Finish the apostille before the consular appointment, and when you put both in one week, account for the two directions and for the hour between them.
- **If you choose the mail route, do not skip two things:** in the office's own words **postal service deliveries are not made directly to this office**, which can cause delay, and for a time-limited document the office suggests a private courier. **A self-addressed stamped return envelope is mandatory.**
 - **The certificate format changed in 2022:** since **July 1, 2022** the office has used the Hague Conference's Model Apostille Single Certificate and **no longer distinguishes apostille requests from authentication requests**. The certificate is on standard-size paper, **in three languages**, attached with **two staples** to the front of the page bearing the certified signature and seal, and carries **a unique number** for verification. **The gold foil seal is gone.**
 - **Notarization is needed on most documents**, but in the office's own words it is **not required for marriage, divorce and birth certificates**. On a notarized document the notarial certificate must be complete: the notary's signature, seal, jurisdiction, the date and the name of the signer.
 - **Do not break the order.** Nothing can be changed on a document after it has been apostilled.

The first link of the chain: the document itself

In Indiana a birth certificate has **two separate routes** and which one you need for an apostille matters. **The county is faster**, but **the long form comes only from the state**, and **an apostille requires the state copy**. There are two pieces of good news for a Turkish reader: **a foreign passport is on the primary identification list and is sufficient on its own**, and the statute says a local health officer **must issue a certificate of the applicant's own birth registration**. That is a duty, not a discretion, so for your own birth record the direct-interest and necessity tests fall away. **A Social Security number is not required**; the card appears only on the secondary list, as one of two documents, and is never asked for on its own. For Gary the county door is the vital records division of the Lake County Health Department; **we could not read the identification list it accepts**.

THE REAL OBSTACLES ARE NOT THE NUMBER BUT THESE

- **There is a conflict between statute and practice and we print it.** The statute says a local health officer **may** issue a certificate **regardless of where the record was filed. But it says may, not shall,** and some county health departments in this state state that they issue only for births in their own county. **We take no side:** call your own county health department before you travel.
- **Direct interest.** The people who may request a certificate are listed and each must **document** the relationship.
- **Without the parents' names the order cannot be completed: name at birth, date of birth, place of birth, the mother's full maiden name and the father's full name.** For a reader arriving from Türkiye that is something to ask the family in advance.
- **The search fee is not refundable.** If no record is found you receive a no-record certificate and **you do not get your money back. We print no vital records fee,** because we could not verify one.
- **The certificate is mailed only to the address on your identification.** For someone who has just moved that is a real trap: if the address on your identification is the old one, the certificate goes there.
- **We also found no procedure for registering a birth that was never recorded.** The state page says the process can vary and points to a page we could not reach.

Marriage license: you do not choose the county, and the identification lists conflict

The statute says the license comes from the clerk of the circuit court of the county where **one of you resides**; if you live in Gary that is the Lake County Clerk, and **the counter is not in this city but at the courts building at the county seat. Both of you must appear in person,** the license is valid **sixty days**, there is **no waiting period**, you may marry the same day, and the license is valid **only inside Indiana**. The fee is **\$25.00** where at least one of you is a resident of this county and **\$65.00** where neither is an Indiana resident, and it is **cash only**; the county states that twice on its own page. Hours are **8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., the shortest of the five counties** in this guide.

THREE CONFLICTS, AND WE PRINT ALL THREE

- **Two official sources give different identification lists.** The state judiciary's own page names a certified birth certificate, a birth record, a **passport**, identification issued by a state or governmental entity, an **immigration or naturalization record showing date of birth**, an armed forces record or a court record. **The county's own page says only a valid driver's license or a state identification card and never mentions a passport.**
- **Why that is critical:** in Indiana the state identification card is itself tied to proof of lawful status, so a newcomer often holds nothing but a **Turkish passport**. **Call before you travel and ask whether a passport is accepted;** write down the name of the person who answers. That is the only way to avoid making the trip for nothing.
- **There is a contradiction inside the county's own page too:** in one place it says the application and the wedding must take place in the county applied in, two lines later that once the license is obtained Indiana residents may marry anywhere in the state. **We record this rather than resolve it.** If your wedding will be in another county, ask at the counter and get the answer in writing. The fee sentence also contains a double negative and, read as written, says the opposite of what is intended; **we do not silently correct it.**
- **The state judiciary's page warns of an extra item:** some offices also charge a **\$4.00 document fee**, and each certified copy of the license is also **\$4.00**. The county's page does not say that and **we found no source stating it for this county;** take a little extra cash.
- **On numbers this is the one county of five that states it openly.** The state judiciary says your Social Security number will be required although your card may not be, and the county repeats it. **We found no official Indiana source saying what a person who has never been issued a number should do, and we are not inventing a procedure;** call the county before you go.
- **The most critical line for a Turkish reader is translation:** the state judiciary's page says documentation in a language other than English **may need to be translated and notarized** before you submit it. Do not go straight to the counter with a Turkish birth record; **sworn translation first, then the notary, then the appointment.**
- **One name trap:** searches surface the clerk's fee schedule for the same-named county **in the state of Michigan**, which has nothing to do with this county. Check which state a page belongs to before you trust a fee figure on it.

Time difference and Istanbul flights

PERIOD	TIME ZONE	GAP TO TÜRKİYE
October 9, 2026 to October 31, 2026	Central daylight time	Türkiye is 8 hours ahead
After November 1, 2026	Central standard time	Türkiye is 9 hours ahead
The rest of the state, for comparison	Eastern time	Türkiye is 7 hours ahead, 8 in winter

- Türkiye stays on the same clock all year and does not observe daylight saving, so the gap shifts by itself twice a year **on the U.S. side. Put November 1, 2026 in the calendar**, because it is very easy to shift a connection time by an hour when buying a ticket.

- **The practical window:** 8:00 a.m. here is currently 4:00 p.m. in Türkiye, and 5:00 p.m. after November. The easiest time to speak to family or a government office in Türkiye is **your morning**, and that morning starts **an hour earlier** than it does elsewhere in the state. **The trap in the other direction:** if an office in Türkiye works 9:00 to 5:00 on weekdays, the window you can call from here opens before midnight and closes in the early hours.
- **Two official sources confirm the split.** The state's own question and answer page lists the **twelve counties** on Central time one by one and this county is among them; the federal regulation describes the boundary along county lines and this county falls west of it. **We print no statutory citation**, because the citation on the state page is written unusually and we could not verify the statutory text.
- **There is a third confirmation and it is operational rather than official:** the free legal aid organization covering this county publishes its own branch hours in Central and its four other branches' hours in Eastern.
- **The Istanbul flight is this guide's concrete advantage:** the Turkish flag carrier's own site gives **two direct flights a day** between **Chicago O'Hare** and Istanbul and a flight time of about **10 hours 40 minutes**. **That is a sentence only this guide among the five can write.**
- **There is no direct flight from the state's large airport.** Türkiye does not appear on its 2026 nonstop list; **the only direct European route is Dublin**, reported to have gone to five flights a week from April 2026. So a reader elsewhere in the state makes at least one connection. **Your practical airports are Chicago O'Hare and Chicago Midway;** there is an airport inside the city limits but **we found no scheduled passenger service from it.**
- **Three errands in the same city.** The city the direct flight departs from, the city the Consulate General sits in and the city of the nearest passport agency are **the same city**. Adding a consular appointment to the days before a trip to Türkiye is a sensible plan from here; take it **the day before the flight** rather than running both in one day.
- **Departure times are in your own clock.** Reading the departure time of a flight from a Chicago airport involves no conversion at all. That looks small, but on a flight leaving after midnight an hour's error is a missed flight.
- **On the rail side:** there is a commuter train toward Chicago with three stations in the city; **we print no ticket price and no journey time**, because the operating agency's site was closed and two sources conflict. **The intercity passenger train is a separate line** running three days a week and **we found no stop for this city**. We could not verify intercity bus stops either.
- **The identity document for an international flight is a passport.** And for every appointment with a state body, **subtract an hour from the published time.**

DO NOT MIX THIS UP WITH YOUR U.S. IMMIGRATION BUSINESS

The consulate handles matters relating to Türkiye. Your U.S. visa, green card or citizenship applications are matters for federal agencies. If you have a pending green card application, check your advance parole position before travelling to Türkiye. If you naturalize, remember to report your U.S. citizenship to the Turkish civil registry; for dual citizens that is also a precondition for military service matters. And for Turkish documents you will use in the United States for your immigration file the direction reverses: those are apostilled in Türkiye and submitted here with a certified English translation.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN GARY

Have a question about your immigration status?

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