

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · LEXINGTON

Turkish Consular Matters from Lexington: 2026 Guide

The mission that covers you is in Chicago and that city is on Central Time while you are on Eastern. Appointment visits and telephone transactions run in different windows, and the apostille chain here has two steps.

SHORT ANSWER

Kentucky falls within the consular district of the Turkish Consulate General in Chicago, and we verified that from the mission's own jurisdiction list: **Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin** - thirteen states. **There is no Turkish consulate in Kentucky.** Inference label: because almost every transaction runs on **booking an appointment and applying in person**, that means **a trip to Chicago** for most matters; the agency does not say it in that sentence, we combined two facts. **And a time zone warning: Lexington is on Eastern Time and Chicago is on Central Time**; the consulate's 9:30 is 10:30 by your clock. **Ask which zone your appointment time is given in.**

Contact and hours

ITEM	INFORMATION
Address	455 N. Cityfront Plaza Dr., Suite 2900, Chicago, IL 60611 (NBC Tower)
Telephone	+1 312 263 0644 · Fax +1 312 263 1449
Email	consulate.chicago@mfa.gov.tr
After-hours emergency line	+1 773 386 3213
Consular call center (24 hours)	+90 312 292 29 29
Local number for the United States and Canada	+1 888 566 7656
Office hours	Monday to Friday 9:00 - 12:30 and 13:30 - 16:30
Appointment visits	9:30 - 12:00
Telephone transactions	14:00 - 16:00

Note the last two rows: appointment visits and telephone transactions run in **different windows**. Do not plan to arrive in the afternoon and be served at the counter.

TIME ZONES: TWO ZONES, THREE RISKS

- **Lexington is on Eastern Time and Chicago on Central Time.** The consulate's **9:30** is **10:30** by your clock. **Confirm** which zone your appointment time is given in.
- **Kentucky itself is split between two time zones.** Lexington is Eastern, and we verified that from two official sources: the state licensing agency's office list labels both Lexington offices **Eastern** (on that same list, **26 offices are Eastern and 9 are Central**), and the federal regulation describes the zone boundary **by county name**, with Fayette County sitting **well to the east** of it. **The hour can change as you travel west or south in the state.**
- **Your immigration hearing has the same trap:** the hearing location is on **Eastern Time** - your own zone - **but the court it reports to is on Central Time.** The agency's rule: **Eastern unless the notice says otherwise.**

The domain trap

A small but real waste of time: the forms of Turkish mission web addresses written **with a dot do not open**. **The working form uses a hyphen.** If you click an old link in a search result and the page does not open, check whether the address is in that form; most people get stuck here and assume the site is down.

How to book

Turkey's consular transactions run through **a single official gateway**, and the transaction list link on the consulate's own page points there. The gateway: konsolosluk.gov.tr. The consulate's page offers two booking routes - **consular transactions for Turkish citizens** and **visa pre-application for foreign nationals** - and also links to **check** and to **cancel** an appointment. **The sentence repeated on every transaction record:** *"Randevu aldıktan sonra şahsen başvurmanız gerekmektedir"* - after booking an appointment you must apply in person.

What is handled at the consulate

The gateway's own top-level headings: **DOĞUM · NÜFUS · YUVAM HESAPLARI · EVLİLİK · PASAPORT · ASKERLİK · NOTERLİK · T.C. VATANDAŞLIK · ÖLÜM · ADLİ KONULAR · TAPU VE KADASTRO · E-DEVLET · SÜRÜCÜ BELGESİ · ÇALIŞMA**. The items a Turkish reader uses most:

- **Passports** - renewal and a first passport.
- **Civil registry matters and birth registration.** Registering a child born in Kentucky with Turkish civil records runs through this route; **that is an inference**, as the consulate does not say it in a Kentucky-specific sentence. **The document list (U.S. birth certificate, any apostille requirement, parents' passports) could not be read from the agency's own text;** ask when you book.
- **Notarial matters.** The gateway groups these under a single heading: **"Noterlik İşlemi Başvurusu (Vekaletname-Azilname-Muvafakatname-Taahhütname-Sözleşme vb.)"** A power of attorney for a sale, an inheritance or a case in Turkey is executed **at the Consulate General in Chicago**. **Fees and document lists could not be read.**

- **Citizenship matters:** registering multiple citizenship, resumption of citizenship, citizenship through marriage, renunciation and the **Mavi Kart** application. **We write no sentence in this guide about the scope of the Mavi Kart**, because the agency's own text could not be read.
- **Work and social security:** there is a heading on the gateway, but **no transaction records were found listed under it**. On buying back time spent abroad **we write no amount, no day count and no condition**; confirm with the social security institution's own page.
- **Sending money to Turkey: no agency-sourced finding could be produced** on this item, and **this guide makes no claim about banks, fees or exchange rates**. Talk to your bank and an accountant.

Military service matters

Military service runs through the same mission, and the official transaction list carries the items separately, all requiring **an appointment plus an in-person application: deferment abroad** (for employee, employer, profession or trade, seafarer or multiple citizenship status, and separately for student status), **paid service abroad**, and **exemption** (separately for holders of multiple citizenship and for health conditions preventing service).

What was measured from the defense ministry's own distance learning portal (its official name is the "**Dövizle Askerlik Uzaktan Eğitim Portalı**):

- **Distance learning is mandatory:** those who wish to use the paid service route must take the training through that portal.
- **Who qualifies:** those who have reached conscription age and have **not yet begun actual military service**.
- **Time requirement:** holding a residence or work permit abroad and having **actually worked for at least three years**; for those with multiple citizenship, having **lived abroad at least three years** excluding time spent in Turkey.
- **The age 38 limit has been removed.**
- **Payment: in full and in cash at the time of application; there are no installments.**
- **The consulate assesses eligibility.**
- **The amount is not published on the portal.**

Why we print no figure: two different amounts circulate for 2026 and they do not agree; moreover the announcements that could be found come from **other consulates** and the currency conversion can differ by country. **It could not be confirmed from the Chicago Consulate General's own announcement, so this guide prints no amount.** What to do: look at the **Consulate General's current announcement** or ask for the figure when you book. **Because payment is made in full, settle the figure before you travel.**

Do not miss the deferment calendar. Deferment applications are **status based** and each has its own document list; **the document lists could not be read from the agency's own text**, so ask when you book and **go with nothing missing**. And an important practical point: deferments are **time limited**, they have to be renewed before they expire, and **no system reminds you**. **Set a reminder at least three months before the deferment ends.** **How this connects to your immigration case:** your military service position is an obligation toward Turkey and **has no direct bearing on your U.S. immigration filing**; but **passport renewal** can depend on it, and if you plan to **travel to Turkey**, ask **before you set out** whether it affects travel.

Is there an honorary consulate?

Whether Turkey maintains an honorary consulate in Kentucky could not be verified in this research - the consulate's honorary consulates page returned no content. **The limits of an honorary consulate's authority** (whether it can handle passport or civil registry matters) could not be read either. **We do not say there is none**; if you hear of one, **confirm with the Consulate General first** and ask which transactions that office can handle.

Sending a document to Turkey: the apostille chain has two steps

This is specific to Kentucky and skipping a step gets the request rejected. The state vital statistics office closes the question in its own sentence: an apostille or certificate of authentication is issued **for international use** and is obtained **only from the office of the Kentucky Secretary of State**. **For a paper document the chain is:** the **county clerk** first certifies the notary's signature, then the **Secretary of State** issues the apostille. The Secretary's own warning: **requests for documents that do not bear the required signatures are rejected.**

ROUTE	FEE	TURNAROUND
By mail	\$5 per document	Completed within three business days and returned by regular mail; to speed it up and add tracking you may enclose a prepaid, self-addressed shipping label
In person	\$5 per document	Completed while you wait . Address: 1025 Capital Center Drive, Suite 201 , hours Monday to Friday 8:00 to 4:00
Electronic	Electronic payment	The apostille is issued as a PDF and emailed. This option does not apply to vital records

Mailing address: Office of the Secretary of State, Authentications and Apostilles, P.O. Box 718, Frankfort, KY 40602 · **(502) 564-3490**.

DOCUMENT TYPE	REQUIRED PRIOR STEP
Vital records (birth, marriage, divorce, single status)	Must bear the signature of the current State Registrar . For a current certified copy, call the vital statistics office: (502) 564-4212
Documents notarized on paper	The signature must be notarized by a Kentucky notary and the notary's signature must be certified by the county clerk where the notary is commissioned
School documents (transcripts, diplomas)	The school official's signature notarized by a Kentucky notary, then county clerk certification. The Secretary's note: many schools issue notarized documents
Kentucky criminal record check	A notarized record must be specifically requested from the state police (502-227-8700), then county clerk certification. A criminal record issued by the administrative office of the courts cannot be apostilled
Federal documents (FBI record checks, federal tax records, passports)	The Kentucky Secretary of State cannot do these; they are apostilled by the federal state department
Court records	The circuit court clerk's signature, certified by the corresponding county clerk

DOCUMENT TYPE	REQUIRED PRIOR STEP
Electronically notarized documents (PDF)	Must be notarized by an authorized Kentucky online notary ; county clerk certification is not required and they are submitted only through the online portal
A document that cannot be notarized	An Affidavit of True Copy may be attached. The Secretary's warning: ask the consulate or embassy you will submit it to in advance whether that will be accepted

DO NOT SKIP A STEP IN THE APOSTILLE CHAIN

- **The order for a paper document: one, a Kentucky notary** notarizes your signature; **two, the county clerk** certifies the notary's signature; **three, the Secretary of State** issues the apostille.
- **Which county clerk? The county where the notary is commissioned.** If you are working in Lexington it is most likely the **Fayette County Clerk**, but **only the notary knows for certain** - ask in advance, because a different county means going there.
- **Two shortcuts:** go to the apostille office **in person** (it is finished while you wait) or use an **online notary** (the county clerk step is skipped and the apostille comes as a PDF) - **but the second does not apply to vital records.**
- **If a vital record is to be apostilled:** when you order the certified copy, **tell the agency that is what it is for**; the copy must bear **the signature of the current State Registrar**, and **there is no county clerk step** for these documents. The agencies do not forward documents to each other, so **taking it to the Secretary of State is your responsibility.**
- **And an apostille is not a translation;** a document for use in Turkey may also need a **sworn translation**. Ask the institution you will submit it to where that should be done.

The time difference with Turkey

PERIOD	LEXINGTON	DIFFERENCE WITH TURKEY
Winter (standard time)	UTC-5	8 hours (Turkey ahead)
Summer (daylight saving)	UTC-4	7 hours (Turkey ahead)

The arithmetic: Turkey is UTC+3 all year and **does not observe daylight saving**. Eastern Time is UTC-5 in winter and UTC-4 in summer. **That arithmetic is ours; the zone assignment comes from the agency's own label. The gap shifts twice a year:** daylight saving in the United States begins on **the second Sunday in March at 2:00 a.m.** and ends on **the first Sunday in November at 2:00 a.m.**, and because Turkey does not observe it, the difference **shrinks by an hour in March and grows by an hour in November. A good window for calling: 8:00 to 11:00 in the morning in Lexington** is late afternoon and evening in Turkey. **Evening in Lexington lands after midnight in Turkey.**

Flights: no direct connection

Lexington's scheduled service airport is **Blue Grass Airport (LEX), 4000 Terminal Drive, Lexington, KY 40510**. The airport's own page names **American** and **Delta**; Delta connections to New York LaGuardia and

Minneapolis-Saint Paul are announced. **There is no scheduled transatlantic passenger carrier on that list.** **Inference label:** from that we conclude **there is no direct flight from Lexington to Istanbul** and the journey involves a connection; the airport does not say so in a sentence of its own.

On connecting points: the cities Turkish Airlines serves in the United States are listed as **Chicago, New York, Washington, Atlanta, Detroit, Boston, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, San Francisco, Dallas and Seattle.** That list was taken indirectly from the carrier's own page, so it is not definitive; **check the current list when you buy a ticket.** **What we do not write: flight duration, the number of connections and which days flights operate were not measured** and are not printed here; **we print no distance figure either.**

A practical note: your consular business is in Chicago, and **Chicago is also one of the cities with a direct flight to Istanbul.** **If you are traveling to Turkey, consider fitting your consular business into the same trip;** set the appointment around your flight date. **But book the appointment first and the ticket second;** appointments can be full.

Checklist before you go to Chicago

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Book the appointment	Through konsolosluk.gov.tr ; every transaction requires an in-person application
☐ Confirm the time zone	Lexington is Eastern , Chicago is Central . The consulate's 9:30 is 10:30 by your clock
☐ Pick the right window	Appointment visits 9:30 - 12:00 , telephone transactions 14:00 - 16:00
☐ Write the web address with a hyphen	The version with a dot does not open
☐ Confirm the document list in advance	+1 888 566 7656 (United States and Canada) or +90 312 292 29 29 (24 hours)
☐ Fit everything into one trip	Group passport, power of attorney, civil registry and military service matters into the same appointment, and book family members on the same day
☐ Complete the training first for paid military service	Distance learning is mandatory , payment is in full and in cash with no installments ; settle the figure in advance
☐ Set a reminder for the deferment end date	Deferments do not renew themselves; a reminder at least three months ahead
☐ Do not skip a step in the apostille chain	On a paper notarized document, the county clerk first, then the Secretary of State. Skip it and the request is rejected
☐ Do not try an electronic apostille for a vital record	The agency's own exception: this option does not apply to vital records
☐ Save the emergency line	After hours: +1 773 386 3213



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN LEXINGTON

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients across Lexington, in Turkish and English. Free evaluation:
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