

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · LOUISIANA

Consular, Military Service and Apostille Matters from Louisiana 2026

All of Louisiana falls under the Turkish Consulate General in Houston, which sits in another state. The in-person window closes before noon and an appointment is required.

SHORT ANSWER

All of Louisiana falls under the Turkish Consulate General in Houston. That was read from the mission's own jurisdiction line, and the district covers **eight states:** Texas, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Tennessee. **So the mission is not in the same state,** and the in-person window runs **weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.,** which is half a day. **An appointment is required** and is taken through a central system. **Apostilles are not done at the consulate but at a state office:** the authority is the **Commissions Division of the Louisiana Secretary of State** and the fee is **\$20.00 per document.** **On military service, do not skip a stage:** distance learning is **mandatory** and the consular step does not open before it is finished. **We do not publish the payment amount** and we say why below.

The mission and its jurisdiction

ITEM	DETAIL
Mission	Turkish Consulate General in Houston
Address	5333 Westheimer Road, Suite 1050, Houston, TX 77056
Phone	+1-346-439 65 60
After-hours emergency line	+1-832-774 18 61
Email	consulate.houston@mfa.gov.tr
In-person hours	Weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Visa application hour	2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Call center, 24 hours a day	+90 312 292 29 29 · toll free from the U.S. and Canada: +1 888 566 7656
Jurisdiction	Eight states: Texas, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Tennessee

So whether you live in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Metairie, Mandeville or Lake Charles makes no difference; passports, civil registry matters, powers of attorney and military service all run through the same

door. The **Religious Affairs, Education and Commercial** attache offices are in the same building; they are separate units, so confirm which one you need before booking.

What is handled there

- Headings in the mission's service catalog: **birth, civil registry, marriage, death, passport, military service, notarial services, citizenship, judicial matters, e-Government, driver's license, employment and YUVAM accounts.**
- **Notarial services:** a **power of attorney** for a sale, an inheritance division or a lawsuit in Turkey is drawn up here. **Have the text written in advance by your lawyer in Turkey or by the institution that will act on it** and bring that text to the appointment; a power of attorney with missing authority means a second trip to Houston.
- **Judicial matters:** criminal record certificates and service of process.
- **E-Government:** password transactions, needed for many remote filings in Turkey.
- **Employment:** service record transactions and social security. **The service record needed for pension crediting comes from this item.**
- **We do not publish fees or per-transaction document lists:** each heading has its own subpage and the amounts change. **Open that subpage before booking** and print the document list.

HONORARY CONSULATE: RESEARCH COULD NOT FIND ONE

- **Whether a Turkish honorary consulate exists in New Orleans could not be verified.** The mission's own pages **do not mention honorary consulates at all**; the subordinate units heading lists only the three attache offices.
- A separate search found honorary consulates of other countries in New Orleans but none for Turkey. **We do not say none exists; we say research could not find one.**
- **And one rule up front:** even if one exists, **it may not handle passports.** No institutional text on the limits of honorary missions was read this round. **Confirm by phone before you travel.**

Foreign currency military service: the mandatory stage is distance learning

The Ministry of National Defense's own portal says the distance learning required of those using the foreign currency military service option **is delivered through that portal** and that it is **a mandatory stage required by statute**. There are two conditions for using the portal, and in the second one **multiple citizenship status is decisive**:

SITUATION	WHAT IS REQUIRED
Turkish citizenship only	With a residence or work permit, at least three years of actual work in one of the listed statuses
Multiple citizenship status	No work requirement ; at least three years of actual presence abroad is enough

- **In both cases time spent in Turkey does not count.**

- **The order:** register on the portal with a Turkish identification number, complete the course content and end-of-section questions, then apply to the consulate you are attached to **with documents proving your residence and work situation and a valid passport. In Louisiana that door is the Consulate General in Houston.**
- **The consular step does not open before the course is finished.** Because the mission is not in the same state, a wasted trip is expensive.
- **The payment: we publish no figure and we say why.** The numbers in circulation do not agree, **the ministry's own portal does not publish a current amount**, and the amount depends on **the exchange rate on the day of payment**. Verify the current figure with the mission or the portal.
- **Deferment and postponement procedure and the present consequences of failing to report** could not be read from the institution's own text this round. **We do not write them;** these matters are personal.

THE BLUE CARD: THE MOST FREQUENTLY CONFUSED ITEM

- **Becoming a U.S. citizen does not by itself end Turkish citizenship.** By the Ministry of Foreign Affairs definition, the **Blue Card** is issued to those who were Turkish citizens by birth and lost that citizenship **by obtaining a release**, and to the descendants the statute lists.
- So **a person who keeps dual citizenship does not hold a Blue Card;** they continue with a Turkish identity card and passport.
- **Records are carried over:** those who leave by release have their records moved to the Blue Card registry **without a change in identification number.**
- **The exceptions the statute lists: no right to vote or stand for election**, no duty-free import of a vehicle or household goods, and **no obligation to perform military service. Vested social security rights are preserved.**
- **Public office:** no tenured **core and permanent** public service post may be held, but employment in public institutions as a **worker, temporary or contract staff** is possible.
- **Let us state the result plainly:** for a person who keeps dual citizenship the military obligation **continues**, and the route runs through the foreign currency option.

Pensions: crediting time spent abroad

- **Creditable periods:** documented insurance periods spent abroad after turning 18, periods of unemployment **of up to one year each** between or after them, and periods spent abroad as a homemaker. **Periods before age 18 are out of scope.**
- **Where the document comes from:** for periods spent in countries without a social security agreement with Turkey, **a service record obtained from a Turkish mission** is attached to the petition. **In Louisiana that record comes from the Consulate General in Houston.**
- **The amount: 45 percent** of the daily earnings base chosen between the lower and upper limits in force on the application date, multiplied by the number of days credited. The assessed debt is paid **within three months of notification;** otherwise a new application is needed. **Partial crediting is possible.**
- **What it does and does not do:** credited periods count **only toward a retirement or old-age pension;** they are **not counted for disability or survivors' pensions.**
- **A final return to Turkey** is required for a pension to be granted, and a separate declaration and undertaking is taken at application.

- **We publish a contradiction:** two of the institution's publications disagree on the citizenship requirement. One page requires **Turkish citizenship at the time of crediting**; a guide published by the same institution says **a 2014 act removed the requirement of Turkish citizenship at the application date**. **We pick no side**; ask the institution in writing about your own situation.

Apostille: two stages, \$20.00 per document

Turkey is a party to the apostille convention, so a **two-stage certification** is enough for a document from this state to be used in Turkey. **The authority is the Commissions Division of the Louisiana Secretary of State**. The order matters: **get the certified copy first, then send it for certification**.

ITEM	DETAIL
Fee	\$20.00 per document ; \$10.00 if it relates to an adoption
In person	Weekdays 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Mail	Louisiana Secretary of State, Commissions Division, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125
Courier	8585 Archives Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809
Phone	225.922.0330

- **Whose signature is certified:** notaries, clerks of court and their deputies, ex officio notaries, sheriffs and their deputies, judges, justices of the peace and the state registrar of vital records. It also covers **transcripts and diplomas** signed by the registrar, president or a dean of an accredited university in this state.
- **Clerk of court and vital records documents need no notarization:** Documents issued by the Clerks of court and the Louisiana Department of Vital Records do not have to be notarized for legalization. The rest of the same sentence matters too: We cannot accept photocopies of these records. **Photocopies are not accepted**.
- **Other documents must be notarized by a Louisiana notary**, with the notary's **printed name and notary identification number below the signature**.
- **Return shipping is not paid by the office:** you send a prepaid envelope or label, and the office warns you **not to put its address as the sender on the return label**. A mail request also needs a **cover letter stating which country the document is going to**.
- **Two limits:** the office's sentence is Apostilles will not be issued for documents intended for use within the United States, and **an apostille does not certify the content of a document**; it certifies only the signature, the seal and the capacity of the signer.
- **An apostille does not translate a document.** A Turkish translation is a separate job and the method is set by **the Turkish institution that will accept the document**. A translation done the wrong way can mean starting over.

NOTARIES ARE A DIFFERENT INSTITUTION IN THIS STATE

- The civil code treats a document executed before a notary with **two witnesses**, signed by the parties, the witnesses and the notary, as an authentic act, and such an act constitutes **full proof**.
- The statute lists among a notary's powers **receiving wills, making protests, making matrimonial contracts, drawing conveyances and in general all contracts**. In most other states these are a lawyer's work.
- Notaries hold their commission **for life**, must pass a **statewide examination** and post a **\$50,000 bond**. **The notary's signature stands in place of a seal** and the commission is **parish based**; a notary commission from another state does not carry over.
- **There is no statutory fee schedule**: the office's own sentence says no statute sets or limits what a notary may charge. **Ask the price in advance and take several quotes**.
- **We refute a common sentence**: the claim that a transfer of immovable property in Louisiana must be made before a notary is **wrong**. The civil code's own article says a transfer may be made **by authentic act or by act under private signature**.

Time difference and flights to Istanbul

- **All of Louisiana is in one time zone**, read from the federal regulation itself: the state appears in none of the sections defining zone boundaries, so it lies entirely within the **central zone**.
 - **Turkey does not observe daylight saving time**. The gap therefore shifts only because of the change on the U.S. side: **8 hours behind during daylight saving time, 9 hours behind in the winter period**.
 - **The calendar is in the statute**: daylight saving begins on **the second Sunday in March** and ends on **the first Sunday in November**. In 2026 it ends on **November 1, 2026** and in 2027 it begins on **March 14, 2027**.
 - **Watch the transition weeks**: if a consular appointment, a court hearing or a call to Turkey falls in one of them, **confirm the time twice**.
 - **The mission is in the central zone too**, so it keeps the same clock as Louisiana. **The in-person window closes before noon**; leave early.
 - **There is no nonstop flight to Istanbul**. The region's major airport lists only **London Heathrow, Toronto and seasonal Cancun** as nonstop international points. On the other hand Houston, Atlanta, Dallas, Charlotte, Newark, New York, Chicago, Washington and Miami are all reachable nonstop, so Turkey is **one connection away**.
 - **We name no airline**: which U.S. cities the Turkish carrier serves to Istanbul **could not be verified** this round. **We publish no flight time or distance either**.
 - **One warning on connections**: if you connect through Europe, check **transit visa rules** and how your status is treated in that country in advance. That is **a visa question, not a flight question**.
- 1 Confirm that your appointment matches the transaction type** and line up all your business into a single trip; the window is three and a half hours a day.
 - 2 Print the document lists from the relevant subpages**; fees and documents vary by transaction.
 - 3 For military service, complete the portal registration and distance learning first**; an appointment is useless before the course is done.

- 4 **Confirm the payment amount with the mission before you pay;** it depends on the exchange rate that day and no figure appears in this document.
- 5 **Plan the apostille backwards:** find out first what the institution in Turkey requires.
- 6 **Get a newly dated certified copy from the issuing office,** have it notarized by a Louisiana notary if required, then send it to the state office. **Photocopies are not accepted.**
- 7 **Get more than one certified copy of every document;** in a state where the mail route takes weeks, working from a single copy is risky.
- 8 **And accept one thing from the start: the consulate does not issue apostilles, the state office does.** Getting that order wrong wastes a trip.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN LOUISIANA

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients across Louisiana, in Turkish and English. Free evaluation: clinchlaw.com/free-evaluation · +1 866-491-7669

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