

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · METAIRIE

Consulate, Military Service and Apostilles from Metairie 2026

All of Louisiana falls under the Consulate General in Houston, and that consulate is in another state. Appointments are required and the window is narrow: do everything in one trip.

SHORT ANSWER

Louisiana is served by the Consulate General of Turkey in Houston, confirmed in the mission's own words: its jurisdiction covers **eight states** and Louisiana is one of them. **So the consulate is not in this state**, which forces this guide's most practical advice: **book the appointment in advance and finish everything in one trip**. The in-person window is weekdays **9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Apostilles are not a consular matter; they are handled by **a state authority**, and the fee is **\$20 per document**. **Whether a Turkish honorary consulate exists in New Orleans, the research did not find**: the consulate's own pages never mention honorary consulates. **We do not say there is none**.

Consulate details

ITEM	DETAIL
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
Hours	Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Visa application hour	2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Jurisdiction	Eight states , Louisiana included
Call center	+90 312 292 29 29 , 24 hours, seven days
Toll free from the U.S. and Canada	+1 888 566 7656

- The **religious affairs, education and trade attache offices** are in the same building; they are **separate units**. The call center page also carries an **interpreter** link.
- **An appointment is required** and is made through one central system: konsolosluk.gov.tr. Checking an appointment, canceling one, and the visa pre-application for foreign nationals are separate flows in the same system.

- **Headings in the transaction catalog:** birth, civil registry, savings accounts, marriage, passport, military service, notarial acts, citizenship, death, judicial matters, the national e-government portal, driver's license and employment.
- **Fees and document lists vary by transaction and were not measured individually this round;** check the mission's own subpage before you book.

DO IT ALL IN ONE TRIP

- The consulate is **in another state** and the window is **three and a half hours a day. Do not go without an appointment;** a wasted day is genuinely expensive from here.
- List before you go: passport renewal, civil registration, power of attorney, criminal record certificate, e-government password, military service, service certificate.
- **Scope is critical on a power of attorney:** have the text drafted in advance by your attorney in Turkey or by the institution that will act on it; an instrument with missing authority means a second trip.
- **For an after-hours emergency** (a lost passport, a detention, a hospital, a death) there is an **emergency line;** save that number in your phone.
- **The time zone is not an issue:** the consulate is in the same time zone as this community.

Dual citizenship and the Blue Card

Becoming a U.S. citizen does not by itself end Turkish citizenship. Under the foreign ministry's own definition, the **Blue Card** is the official document issued to people who were Turkish citizens by birth and lost that citizenship **by obtaining a release**, and to the descendants the statute names. So the Blue Card only arises **with a release;** someone who keeps dual citizenship continues with a Turkish identity card and passport instead. **Information that confuses these two is very common online.**

- **Rights:** except for the exceptions the statute lists, the person **continues to enjoy the rights granted to Turkish citizens.**
- **The exceptions the statute itself 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. Acquired social security rights are preserved.**
- **Public employment:** permanent, established public service posts are closed, but one may work in public institutions as a **worker or on a temporary or contract basis.**
- **Identification number:** the records of those who lose citizenship by release are moved to the Blue Card registry **without a change in the identification number;** descendants who are not Turkish citizens are issued a **foreign national identification number** on application.
- **Application:** a petition, **two photographs**, and presentation of an identity document or passport issued by a foreign authority.

Paid military service

The Ministry of National Defense's distance learning portal states that the training is **a mandatory stage required by statute. Here is the item people most often get wrong:**

SITUATION	WHAT IS REQUIRED
Turkish citizenship only	At least three years of actual work abroad in one of the listed statuses, holding a residence or work permit
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. Most accounts online do not draw this distinction** and push readers into collecting documents they do not need.
- **The order:** register on the portal with your identification number, complete the course content and end-of-section questions, then apply to the consulate you are attached to **with documents proving residence and employment status and a valid passport**. In Louisiana that means the **Consulate General in Houston**.
- **We do not print the amount, and we explain why:** the figures circulating 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. Do not budget from a figure you read in a guide.**
- **The deferral and postponement procedure** could not be reached in the ministry's own text this round, so **we do not describe a procedure here**. Ask the consulate's military service desk.
- **The distance learning is not a formality but a precondition of the consular application;** complete it before you book, or the day you go will be wasted.

Retirement and foreign service credit

- **Periods that can be credited:** documented periods of insurance abroad after the age of 18, periods of unemployment between or after them **of up to one year each**, and time spent abroad as a homemaker. **Periods before the age of 18 are excluded.**
- **Documentation is mandatory.** For periods in countries with no social security agreement, **a service certificate from a Turkish mission** is attached to the petition; the **employment** item in the consulate's transaction catalog is exactly that.
- **The amount owed: 45 percent** of a daily earnings base chosen between the floor and ceiling in effect on the application date, multiplied by the number of days credited. The assessed amount is paid **within three months of notification;** if it is not, a new application is required. **Partial crediting is possible.**
- **What it is good for and what it is not:** credited periods count **only toward a retirement or old-age pension;** they are **not considered for disability or survivors' pensions.**
- **A permanent return to Turkey** is required for a pension to be awarded, and a separate declaration and undertaking is taken at application.
- **We print a conflict:** one of the agency's pages requires the person to **be a Turkish citizen** at the time of crediting (or to have been one by birth and lost it by release); a guide the same agency publishes says **that condition was removed by a 2014 act. We take no side;** ask the agency in writing before you apply.

Apostilles: two stages and an order that must not break

- 1 **Obtain the certified copy.** For a birth or death record, or a marriage record issued in a particular parish of this state, the source is the state vital records office; for court records it is the parish Clerk of Court.

- 2 Send it to the state's commissions division for the apostille.** In-person filing is weekdays 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; mail and courier routes exist as well.
- 3 Leave translation for last.** The correct order is: certified copy, then apostille, then translation and the Turkish institution. **Translating first and then seeking an apostille usually means starting over.**

ITEM	DETAIL
Fee	\$20 per document; \$10 if it relates to an adoption (proof may be requested)
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

- The office certifies the signatures of **notaries, the Clerk of Court and deputies, ex officio notaries, sheriffs and deputies, judges, justices of the peace and the state registrar of vital records**, as well as transcripts and diplomas signed by the registrar, president or dean of accredited universities in the state.
- Records from the clerk of court and the vital records office need no separate notarization, and photocopies of those records 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**.
- The shipping trap:** the office **does not pay for return shipping**, asks for a prepaid envelope or label, and states in its own words that **its address must not appear on the return label**. A mailed request must also include **a cover letter stating the destination country** and a daytime phone number.
- No apostille is issued for a document to be used within the United States:** Apostilles will not be issued for documents intended for use within the United States. If an institution inside the United States asks you for an apostille, **ask whether it really wants an apostille or a certified copy**.
- An apostille does not certify the content of a document;** it certifies the signature, the seal and the capacity of the signer.
- Order several certified copies up front;** the mail route can take weeks and **no stage works with a photocopy**.

Time difference and getting to Istanbul

PERIOD	DIFFERENCE FROM TURKEY
During daylight saving time	8 hours
During standard time	9 hours

- The whole state is in the Central time zone**, and daylight saving time begins on the **second Sunday in March** and ends on the **first Sunday in November**; **Turkey does not change its clocks**. So the gap **shifts twice a year**, and in those weeks even automatic calendar invitations can slip.
- There is no nonstop flight to Istanbul.** On the regional airport's own list the only nonstop European destination is **London**, five times a week; the other nonstop international destinations are **Toronto** and, seasonally, **Cancun**.

- **Which airline flies to Istanbul from which U.S. city could not be verified this round**, so we name no airline; when you buy a ticket, **check that your connecting hub actually has the connection that day**.
- **If an urgent trip to Turkey becomes necessary, you cannot go nonstop from here**. Settle your passport validity and, if applicable, your military service status **in advance**; on an urgent trip there is no time to fix them.

If you have a pending immigration case and plan to travel to Turkey, that is a separate legal decision and in some statuses it affects your right to return; ask your attorney before you buy the ticket. For statewide rules see our [Louisiana guide](#).



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN METAIRIE

Have a question about your immigration status?

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