

FOR TURKISH NATIONALS IN MICHIGAN

Consulate General in Chicago: A 2026 Transactions Guide

Passports, civil registry, powers of attorney, military service and apostilles: the booking steps, the one-hour time difference and the contact details.

SHORT ANSWER

There is no Turkish consulate general in Michigan. The state falls in the district of the **Consulate General in Chicago**, and we did not assume that: the mission lists its own area of responsibility in its own words and **Michigan is on that list**. The address is **455 N. Cityfront Plaza Dr. (NBC Tower), Suite 2900, Chicago, IL 60611**, switchboard **+1 312 263 0644**. The most expensive detail in this guide is not the address but the clock: **Chicago is on Central time and Michigan is on Eastern**. A **09:30 appointment is 10:30 by your clock**, and that one-hour shift is the commonest way people miss a consular appointment from Michigan. The visiting window is two and a half hours a day.

Contact and appointments

ITEM	VALUE
Area of responsibility	As the mission's own page puts it, thirteen Midwest states : Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan , Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin
Address	455 N. Cityfront Plaza Dr. (NBC Tower), Suite 2900, Chicago, IL 60611
Switchboard	+1 312 263 0644
Emergency line	+1 773 386 3213 , published for emergencies outside office hours
Fax	+1 312 263 1449
Email	consulate.chicago@mfa.gov.tr
Office hours	Weekdays 09:00-12:30 and 13:30-16:30
Visiting hours, by appointment	09:30-12:00 . Telephone applications 14:00-16:00 . Much narrower than office hours, and this is what decides whether a trip from Michigan is worth making
Appointments	Compulsory , and made through the mission's own online system . The site offers booking, checking and cancellation separately, with separate tracks for Turkish citizens' consular transactions and for foreigners' visa pre-application. There is no walk-in counter
Time zone	Chicago is Central, Michigan is Eastern . The consulate's 09:30 is 10:30 by your clock. Work that out when you book , not on the day

There is a gap on the journey and we are stating it: we did not measure the distance or the driving time from Michigan to Chicago in this research, and neither the consulate nor any transport authority publishes it. So there is **no mileage or duration figure** in this guide. Three things can be said with certainty, and you should plan around them: the consulate is **in another state**, in downtown Chicago; it is **one hour behind**; and **appointments are compulsory**, with a visiting window of two and a half hours a day. If you travel by train, Michigan is actually well placed: all three of the state's Amtrak routes run to Chicago, and **the Ann Arbor station is the busiest in the state**, busier than Detroit, with three round trips a day to Chicago. So it is possible to reach a consular appointment without a car. But the same time difference still applies: an appointment at 09:30 Chicago time is 10:30 by the Ann Arbor clock.

THERE IS AN HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL IN DETROIT, BUT DO NOT TAKE PAPERWORK THERE

The mission's own page states that there is an **Honorary Consul General in Detroit**. But the same page publishes **no list of services, no address and no telephone number** for that post, and neither do we. The practical consequence should be said plainly: **do not assume that a passport, a civil registry matter, a power of attorney or a military service matter can be handled in Detroit**. An honorary post does not carry the same authority as a consulate general, and we could not establish what this one can and cannot do. **Call the Chicago switchboard and ask before you book**; if the answer is yes, you have saved yourself an out-of-state journey. One more note: we say Michigan is in the **Chicago district** because Chicago's own page says so. We did not read other missions' pages in this research, so we print no list of which missions it is not.

What is handled at the consulate, and the three attached offices

- The categories on the mission's own contact form are **birth, civil registry, marriage, passport, military service, notarial acts, citizenship, estates, education and visas**.
- **Passport** renewal and a first passport.
- **Civil registry matters:** registering a birth, recording a marriage or a divorce in the Turkish registry, reporting a death.
- **Powers of attorney and notarial acts** for use in Türkiye.
- The blue card, renunciation of citizenship, inheritance and estate matters.
- **Education Attaché:** extension **811**, chicago@meb.gov.tr, chicago.meb.gov.tr. School, equivalence and diploma questions and student matters go here. For readers living in a Michigan university town this is one of the most useful lines in the guide.
- **Press Attaché:** extension 835, chicago@iletisim.gov.tr. **Commercial Attaché:** extensions 888 and 812, chicago@trade.gov.tr.
- **Because the visiting window is narrow**, ask the switchboard one thing: can a military service matter be combined with a passport renewal or a civil registry matter **in the same appointment**? That is the easiest way not to double an out-of-state trip.

Military service

- Turkish military service law does not change with the US state you live in; the only thing Michigan changes is **where you go**, and the answer is the **Consulate General in Chicago**, by appointment and one hour

behind.

- **Conditions for paid exemption from abroad:** holding a residence or work permit; having been abroad for **at least three years, that is 1,095 days**; completing the **Ministry of National Defense online training** (dovizle.msb.gov.tr); residing in the **district of the mission** you apply to; and completing the transaction at an **in-person appointment**.
- **Registration: for men born in 2007 the deadline falls on December 31, 2026.** Registration can be done at the consulate or through **e-Devlet** (turkiye.gov.tr); living in the United States does not remove it, and every route including deferment and the paid exemption depends on registration having been done. Missing the date can carry an administrative penalty; **do not wait for December**.
- **Dual citizens born in the United States or who came here before turning 18:** after registering their US citizenship they may defer **until the end of age 35**. So reporting US citizenship to the Turkish side is not only a civil registry matter, it affects the military service entitlement too.
- **F-1 students:** deferment runs through the mission's **Education Attaché**, at the same address in Chicago: chicago@meb.gov.tr, extension **811**.
- **The amount, with the caution we carry over:** for the period July 1 to December 31, 2026 the figure is the equivalent of **472,653.60 Turkish lira**, paid in US dollars and calculated at the **Central Bank rate on the day you pay**, so the dollar amount moves with the exchange rate. A **wire transfer charge** is added on top and it varies between missions; **we could not verify the Chicago Consulate General's own transfer charge**, so we print no figure for it. And the main caution: **these figures were verified in our earlier state research and were not pulled again in this round**. The amount and the exchange structure are the fastest-moving number in this series, and **the amount changes on January 1, 2027**. Because payment is made in an exact amount, **have the total confirmed by the mission before you pay**.

Apostille: one dollar a document, and two days a week

ITEM	VALUE
Apostille or authentication fee	\$1.00 per document. By a wide margin the lowest apostille fee we have recorded in this series
Issuing office	The Office of the Great Seal at the Michigan Department of State
How to pay	Money order or check payable to the State of Michigan
Mailing address	Michigan Department of State, Office of the Great Seal, 7064 Crowser Drive, Lansing, MI 48918
What goes in the envelope	The completed and signed authentication request form , the \$1-per-document fee, a self-addressed stamped return envelope , and the documents themselves, bearing the signature of an authorized official or a commissioned notary
In person	By appointment only, Mondays or Wednesdays only, 08:30 to 16:00. If you cannot book online, call (888) 767-6424
Where it can be done	The Office of the Great Seal in Lansing and select Secretary of State offices

ITEM	VALUE
A document in a foreign language	Records to be verified must be certified copies , and documents in foreign languages must also include a written English translation . This is where Turkish families most often get stuck: sending a Turkish-language document straight to the apostille counter does not work, the translation travels with the document
Not available online	An apostille cannot be done over the internet and cannot be done at a self-service station

- **There is a cheaper route for a vital record.** A Michigan vital record that will be used abroad can be bought **pre-authenticated** from the state health and human services department: authenticated or exemplified copies of birth, death, marriage and divorce records carry a search fee of **\$42.00** instead of the standard \$34.00. **The application must name the foreign country** where the document will be used, and the department's own wording is that this product is the apostilled record a foreign government requires and that it is **not for use within the United States**. That turns two steps into one.
 - **The no-marriage statement: Michigan sells it by name.** A Turkish citizen marrying in Türkiye is asked for a certificate of no impediment to marriage, and in most states that document either does not exist or nobody knows its name. In Michigan it exists as two separate products: **Statement of No Marriage**, a statement that the records show no marriage, and **Statement of No Divorce**, a statement that the records show no divorce. **Both are available in an apostilled version**, and the department explains their purpose in its own words: they are typically used to allow marriage in a foreign country.
 - **One detail matters:** if you buy the statement without the apostille and then find you need one, the department says you have to work **directly with the Office of the Great Seal** for further processing. **Asking for the apostilled version from the start saves a round of post.**
 - **Ask how many copies you will need before you start:** the fee is per document and at a dollar an extra copy is almost free, but waiting for a second round of post means weeks.
- 1 Get a **certified original**. If it is a vital record, ask for the **apostilled version** and write **Türkiye** on the application.
 - 2 Have it **notarized** where notarization is required. On such documents the apostille certifies the notary's commission.
 - 3 Add an **English translation** to any document in Turkish or another foreign language; the office requires it.
 - 4 Get the apostille from the **Office of the Great Seal**: by post at \$1 per document plus a return envelope, or in person by appointment, Mondays or Wednesdays only.
 - 5 For use in Türkiye, the **sworn translation** is usually done on the Turkish side. Ask the receiving institution in advance where it wants the translation done. And remember: **an apostille certifies only that the document and the signature are genuine**, not the content.

Time difference and the Istanbul flight

PERIOD	MICHIGAN (MOST OF THE STATE)	HOW FAR AHEAD TÜRKİYE IS
Mid-March to early November	Eastern Daylight Time (UTC-4)	7 hours
Early November to mid-March	Eastern Standard Time (UTC-5)	8 hours

The side that changes is always the American one; **Türkiye does not change its clocks** and stays on UTC+3 all year. On **Sunday, November 1, 2026** the gap goes from 7 hours to 8, and on **Sunday, March 14, 2027** it drops back to 7. The practical consequence: from early November to mid-March, **09:00 in Michigan is 17:00 in Istanbul**, so a call home has to be made early in the Michigan day. If you need to reach an institution, a lawyer or a bank in Türkiye, book it for the first hours of the morning. Michigan also has **two time zones inside it**, written into federal regulation: **Gogebic, Iron, Dickinson and Menominee** counties are on **Central** rather than Eastern time, so moving to one of those four adds an hour to your gap with Türkiye (8 in summer, 9 in winter). The rest of the state, including Detroit, Ann Arbor, Lansing and Grand Rapids, is on Eastern. On flights the answer is one that is rare in this series: **there is a direct flight from Detroit (DTW) to Istanbul**, operated by Turkish Airlines out of the **Evans Terminal**, reservations **(800) 874-8875**. According to the airport authority, Detroit opened as Turkish Airlines' 13th US gateway and service began on November 15, 2023. **We could not verify the current frequency, the aircraft type or the flight time**, so there is no frequency or duration figure in this guide. Terminal names can read differently on a boarding pass at DTW (McNamara "EM", Evans "WE"); confirm the terminal with the airline rather than from the pass. One small detail: DTW publishes its site in several languages but **Turkish is not among them**.

DO NOT CONFUSE THIS WITH YOUR US IMMIGRATION MATTERS

The consulate general handles matters relating to Türkiye. Your US visa, green card or citizenship applications are the business of USCIS and the US State Department. If you plan to go and return in a day, hold four things together: **book through the mission's own system**, allow for the **09:30 to 12:00 visiting window**, **add the one-hour time difference to the appointment time**, and **confirm by telephone before you leave that your documents are complete**, because one missing document doubles an out-of-state journey. In an emergency (an arrest, a serious accident, a death) call the **emergency line**, not the switchboard: +1 773 386 3213. And two legal reminders: if a green card application is pending, check your **advance parole** position before traveling to Türkiye, and if you are planning a long stay in Türkiye for military service, discuss in advance with an immigration attorney how long you will be away and whether a reentry permit is needed, because time spent abroad matters for a green card holder.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN MICHIGAN

Have a question about your immigration status?

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

clinchlaw.com/free-evaluation · +1 866-491-7669

Office: 321 N Central Expy, Ste 206, McKinney, TX 75070

Attorney responsible for this guide: Asim Clinch, Esq., Clinch Law Firm P.C. Attorney Asim Clinch is a member of the Missouri Bar (No. 76084) and practices U.S. federal immigration law.

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