

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · MINNESOTA

Turkish Consulate and Apostille Matters from Minnesota 2026

Your mission is in Chicago and in-person intake runs two and a half hours a day. The apostille comes from the Minnesota Secretary of State at five dollars per document.

SHORT ANSWER

Minnesota sits in the district of the **Consulate General in Chicago**. We confirmed that from a list rather than an assumption: the Consulate General's own page counts its district as **13 Midwestern states**, and Minnesota appears by name on both the about page and the contact page. The distance is real: roughly **650 kilometers** from the metro to Chicago. And the most important planning detail: **in-person intake by appointment runs only from 9:30 a.m. to noon**, that is two and a half hours a day. The **apostille** you need for a document to be used in Türkiye comes from the Minnesota Secretary of State and is inexpensive: **\$5 per apostille issued**. On vital records there is good news too: **all 87 counties run on the same system** and do not look at where you live.

Which mission, which hours

ITEM	INFORMATION
Mission	Consulate General of the Republic of Türkiye in Chicago
Address	455 N. Cityfront Plaza Dr., Suite 2900, Chicago, IL 60611, 29th floor
Switchboard	+1 312 263 0644
Duty officer, emergencies	+1 773 386 3213
Email	consulate.chicago@mfa.gov.tr
Call center, 24 hours, 7 days	+90 312 292 29 29
Working hours	Weekdays 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
In-person intake by appointment	9:30 a.m. to noon only
Telephone applications	2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The time difference works in your favor here: Chicago and Minnesota are in the same time zone, so you can read the working hours in your own time. That is not true everywhere in this series. The district covers the whole Midwest and a single mission serves it, so **an appointment slot is genuinely valuable at this distance**; cancel as soon as you know you cannot make it. **There is no mission in Minnesota**; there is an honorary consulate general in the Midwest and it is in another state, so there is no Turkish authority you can visit inside the state. The work that runs through Chicago: birth notifications and civil registry transactions,

marriage and death notifications, **passport renewals and first passports**, military service matters, notarial acts including powers of attorney and signature certification, Turkish citizenship matters and **notification of U.S. citizenship to the Turkish registry**, judicial matters and criminal record certificates, e-government credentials, Turkish driver license renewal, and social security matters. **We do not publish the document lists in this guide:** every transaction has its own fee and its own list, and we could not verify which transaction requires which documents one by one this round. **Going to Chicago with the wrong documents would be the most expensive advice this guide could give you.**

UNIT IN THE SAME BUILDING	CONTACT
Education Attache	Same address, +1 312 263 0644 ext. 811, chicago@meb.gov.tr
Trade Attache	Same address, +1 312 263 0644 ext. 888 and 812, chicago@trade.gov.tr
Press Attache	Same address, +1 312 263 0644 ext. 835, chicago@iletisim.gov.tr

Having the Education Attache in the same building is a concrete convenience for a family in Minnesota: for a child's school registration and equivalency matters in Türkiye you do not have to travel to a separate city, and it can be added to the same appointment day.

What to do before you travel, in order

- 1 Call the call center first, +90 312 292 29 29.** It is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and it is the fastest way to learn which documents you need.
- 2 Check the e-government portal for civil registry, address and some document matters, turkiye.gov.tr;** find out from there first which transactions can be handled remotely.
- 3 Ask about the courier or mail route.** Some transactions run on documents sent in; ask the call center which ones are accepted and do not send documents on your own initiative.
- 4 If an in-person visit is required, book the appointment first and plan the trip second,** and factor in the **9:30 a.m. to noon window.**
- 5 If a document will be used in Türkiye, get the apostille from the Minnesota Secretary of State first.** Mail time is required, and this has to be finished **before** the Chicago appointment.
- 6 Ask the mission whether the document also needs a sworn translation** and where it must be done. That is something to learn on the phone, not at the counter.
- 7 Try to finish more than one matter in a single trip,** booking appointments on the same day or on consecutive days. Since the in-person window is two and a half hours, you may need two separate appointments.
- 8 On military service we deliberately give no figures.** The conditions and amounts for paid and foreign-currency military service change from period to period and we could not verify the current state from an official source this round. **There are steps that cannot be undone once payment is made;** your contacts are the call center and the mission's own announcements.

Apostille: five dollars per document, but five grounds for rejection

Türkiye is a party to the Hague Apostille Convention, so a document issued in Minnesota needs **an apostille rather than consular legalization** to be used there. The apostille comes from **the Minnesota Secretary of State's authentication desk**, which authenticates the signature of a state official or a Minnesota notary when the document will be used outside the United States.

ITEM	INFORMATION
Fee	\$5 per apostille , and an apostille is issued separately for each document submitted ; so two documents cost \$10
Mailing address	332 Minnesota Street, Suite N201, Saint Paul, MN 55101
Phone	(651) 296-2803 or 1-877-551-6767, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Email	apostille.oss@state.mn.us
Payment by mail	A check or money order payable to MN Secretary of State
In person	By appointment , and appointments open 14 days in advance
Return route	The document is mailed to the address on the form; if the form has no address, to the address on the check or money order. For tracking you may include a stamped addressed envelope or a prepaid courier label

FIVE GROUNDS FOR REJECTION, AND FOUR OF THEM ARE EXACTLY WHAT A NEWCOMER DOES

- **An improper notarial act:** no notarial certificate at all, an invalid notarial commission, or a stamp that does not match the signature. For sample certificates see [the notarial certificate section of state law](#).
- **A private document that has not been notarized.**
- **A fee that is short or missing entirely.**
- **A document issued outside Minnesota.** This is the ground that **costs the most time**: the Minnesota Secretary of State cannot apostille a document issued by another state or a federal agency. A federal document such as a certificate of naturalization or a U.S. passport goes to **the State Department's authentications office**; another state's document goes to that state's own office. **Do not write here about a document you brought with you when you moved.**
- **No original signature on the document.**
- **We give no figure for processing time, and that is deliberate.** In the office's own words documents are processed **in the order received**, and **using express mail for the return does not speed up processing**. There is no published timeframe and we do not invent one; **do not leave it to the last week**.
- **There is a conflict on payment and we print it as it stands:** the office's **mail-in form** asks for a check or money order, while the same office's mobile service page says **only credit or debit cards are accepted and cash, checks and money orders are not**. The two may describe different channels, but the gap is enough to waste an envelope. **Confirm in writing which payment method applies to the channel you will use.**

Vital records: no divergence, and that is reassuring for a distant reader

- **In the Minnesota Department of Health's own words, all 87 counties operate on the same statewide system** and serve customers **regardless of where they live**. So you can obtain a certified copy of a 1935-or-later Minnesota birth record **from the nearest county counter**, wherever in the state you are.
- **In other states in this series** obtaining a vital record meant traveling to the county where the birth occurred or mailing the state capital. For a family living 450 kilometers from the metro this is a concrete gain.
- **The state vital records office does not serve walk-ins**; it accepts mail and fax only. The help desk is **651-201-5970**, weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., **closed from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.**
- **Anyone requesting a certified record must present identification and sign the request form in front of a notary or county vital records staff**, attesting to their eligibility. A certified record requires a **tangible interest**.
- **And the single most useful item in this section:** a person without acceptable identification may ask a witness to complete an **identity affidavit** form, and the witness swears to that person's identity. In other words, **there is an official answer to "I do not have acceptable identification."** Download the form and arrange the witness who will come with you in advance.
- Those who may request without additional documentation: the **subject** of the record, a **parent** named on it, the subject's **child**, a current spouse on a birth record or the spouse named on a death record, **grandparents and their parents**, and a grandchild and a grandchild's child.
- **We publish only the fees we verified:** in Ramsey County a certified birth record is **\$26**, an additional copy of the same record **\$19**, and a noncertified copy **\$13** each. The fees of two counties we **could not verify and do not publish**.
- **Work out how many copies you need up front:** school enrollment asks for the birth certificate, apostille work needs its own copies, and consular transactions and a passport application each want one. **Additional copies ordered at the same time are cheaper.**
- One limit: **older records that have not been digitized** require a manual search and cannot be issued the same day. Giving false information to obtain a vital record is also a crime, with a fine or imprisonment possible.

MARRIAGE LICENSE: THREE OFFICIAL SOURCES GIVE THREE FEES, AND THE STATUTE CONFLICTS WITH ITSELF

- The statute today says **\$125**, or **\$50** with 12 hours of premarital education. A 2025 amendment raised the figure from **\$115 to \$125**, and that increase is visible on the face of the statute.
- **But the Hennepin County page still said \$115 and \$40 in October 2026**, and the Ramsey County approved 2026-2027 fee schedule also showed **\$115**.
- **On top of that the statute conflicts with itself:** against the paragraph setting the reduced fee at \$50, the paragraph describing how the money is distributed still begins "of the \$40 fee" and then lists two shares that add up to \$50. The amendment raised the amount and did not update the cross-reference. **We could not find the effective date of the increase either.**
- **We take no side.** Before you go to the counter, call the county and ask which amount is being collected today and which payment methods are taken. **The fee is not refundable**, so arriving with the wrong amount costs you the day.
- **The two most important sentences for a Turkish reader:** a party without a number, in the statute's own words, **declares that they do not have one**, and the number **does not appear on the license**; and **proof of age is required from both parties**, where a foreign passport is the strongest document you hold.
- **If one party cannot attend:** the party who attends may complete the information for the absent one, the clerk gives the absent party a copy, and that party confirms its accuracy by **notarized statement**, attaching **a copy of their proof of age**. **The license is not released until the statement and the proof of age arrive.**
- **The license is valid for six months** and only for a ceremony performed **inside Minnesota**; a ceremony in another state needs a license from that state. If it goes unused because of illness or another compelling reason, it can be returned and canceled, and on the parties' request **a new license is issued at no charge**.
- **The unit that issues the license does not have the same name in every county**, so "go to the county clerk" does not work here: Hennepin County uses a **network of service centers** with an online pre-application first, Ramsey County handles everything at a single **vital records counter**, and Polk County uses the **recorder's office**. In Hennepin County appointments cannot be booked more than four weeks ahead and **only one transaction per appointment** is handled, so do not plan to pick up a birth certificate on the same visit; in another you must enter the office **by 4 p.m.**

Time difference and flights to Istanbul

PERIOD	TIME ZONE	DIFFERENCE FROM 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

All of Minnesota is in the Central time zone and there is no time zone split inside the state; Türkiye stays on the same time all year and does not observe daylight saving, so the gap **shifts on its own twice a year**. **The practical window:** 9 a.m. in Minnesota is currently 5 p.m. in Türkiye and 6 p.m. after November, so the easiest time to reach family or a government office in Türkiye is **your morning here**. The trap in the other direction: if a bank in Türkiye works weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., your window to call starts after midnight

and closes at 8 a.m.; that is why handling Turkish matters through the e-government portal and the **24-hour** call center also solves the time difference. **Put November 1, 2026 on your calendar**, because it is very easy to slip an hour when you calculate a connection while buying a ticket.

NONSTOP FLIGHTS TO ISTANBUL: NOT ON THE AIRPORT'S OWN LIST

- **The airport's own answer:** the metro's international airport publishes its nonstop routes on its own page, and **Istanbul is not on that list**; Amsterdam appears as the European gateway and no destination toward Türkiye is listed. We read this from [the airport's own route list](#), not from an airline page.
- **The honest formulation is this: it is not on the list.** We do not write that there is definitively none, because the page's interactive map did not fully open this round.
- **The realistic construction is one connection:** through a European hub, or by connecting to a U.S. gateway the Turkish flag carrier serves. **We do not name that U.S. gateway**, because we did not verify it from the airline's own route list and naming the wrong city makes the ticket more expensive.
- **Connection options are plentiful; what is missing is the Istanbul route:** by the airport authority's own announcement, more than 36 million passengers and **35 nonstop international destinations** were reported for 2025, eight of them in Europe. **Seasonal routes are a real issue**; before you buy, check whether the route operates in that month.
- **Getting to the airport is easy:** the light rail line stops at **both terminals** and **the ride between the two terminals is free**. So you do not need taxi fare to reach downtown with your luggage on your first arrival.
- **If you are coming from the northwest of the state, the nearest commercial airport is not in the metro but out of state**, and the metro airport is a seven to eight hour drive away. Compare the two departure points side by side when you search for tickets.
- **On rail we print a conflict:** the carrier's older state fact sheets count Crookston among the stations, but **the current timetable and the state transportation agency's station list do not**. We write the current one: the long-distance train does not stop in that city and the nearest station is out of state. **Do not go to a depot on the strength of an old document.** The metro station is **in the state capital's downtown**, not in the largest city.
- **And the short version of this section:** the identity document for an international flight is your passport, and Minnesota's standard license is not an accepted document on domestic flights either. **Do not go to the airport without your passport.**

How to order the steps

For documents being sent to Türkiye the order is this: **obtain the document, have it notarized by a Minnesota notary if required, get the apostille, have a sworn translation done if required, then use it**. If you skip a step and send the document to Türkiye, going back to the start costs weeks, and **nothing can be changed on a document after it has been apostilled**. For Turkish documents you will use in the United States for your immigration case the direction reverses: those documents are **apostilled in Türkiye** and submitted here with a **certified English translation**. If your child was born in Minnesota or you married here, you will need the **apostilled original** of the record for the Turkish registry; finish that **before the Chicago appointment**, because the apostille is obtained inside the state and mail time is required. If you have

naturalized, notifying the Turkish registry of your U.S. citizenship also runs through the same mission and is generally a precondition for military service matters for dual citizens. One last detail: **an apostille authenticates the original document, it does not translate the content**; ask the authority in Türkiye that will receive it whether they require a sworn translation.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN MINNESOTA

Have a question about your immigration status?

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

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