

FOR TURKISH SPEAKERS IN MINNETONKA

Turkish Consular Matters and Apostilles from Minnetonka 2026

There is no Turkish mission in Minnesota and the in-person window is two and a half hours a day. The apostille desk is at the other end of the metro, which makes mailing the more sensible route from here.

SHORT ANSWER

All of Minnesota, Minnetonka included, falls within the jurisdiction of the **Consulate General of Türkiye in Chicago**; the mission's own page lists its area of responsibility as **13 Midwest states** and Minnesota is on that list. **There is no Turkish mission anywhere in Minnesota**, and the Midwest honorary consul general is in Detroit. The distance is about **650 kilometers**, so it is a flight or a long day's drive, and the detail that governs your planning is this: **in-person visits by appointment run only between 9:30 a.m. and noon**, two and a half hours a day. Seen from a suburb one more thing is added: **this city has no transit operation of its own and light rail does not reach it**, so getting to the airport is a leg in itself. On the apostille side the office is **at the other end of the metro, in Saint Paul**, at **5 dollars per apostille**.

Which mission, which hours

ITEM	DETAIL
Mission	Consulate General of the Republic of Türkiye in Chicago
Address	455 N. Cityfront Plaza Dr. (NBC Tower), 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
Consular call center, 24/7	+90 312 292 29 29
Working hours	Weekdays 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
In-person visits by appointment	Only 9:30 a.m. to noon
Applications by phone	2 to 4 p.m.
Consul General	Tahir Bora Atatanır
Jurisdiction	13 Midwest states; Minnesota is on the list

Getting there from Minnetonka: the real subject of this guide

- **The time difference is in your favor:** Chicago and Minnesota are both on Central time, so you do not have to convert the appointment time in your head. That is not always the case in this series.
- **The in-person window is two and a half hours a day.** You have to build your departure around it: the first flight of the morning if you fly, or leaving the day before if you drive. **A plan that arrives in the afternoon wastes the day.**
- **Do not skip the first leg.** The metro's international airport sits on a light rail line and the line stops at **both terminals, but that line does not reach this city and the City runs no bus operation of its own.** Without a car the plan looks like this: a Metro Transit route or Transit Link service through the city to a transfer point, then light rail to the airport. **With luggage that is awkward;** do not make it your first choice for a morning flight.
- **Driving and parking at the airport is also an option** and on some winter mornings it is more predictable. But do not plan on leaving the car on the street in front of the house and boarding a plane: in this city **overnight street parking is prohibited and the uninterrupted limit on the street is six hours.**
- **Finish more than one matter in a single trip.** Book appointments on the same day or on consecutive days; because the window is narrow you may need two separate appointments for two separate matters, so ask the call center.
- **Cancel the moment you know you cannot go.** A single mission covers the entire Midwest and an appointment slot is genuinely valuable at this distance.

What is handled there

- Birth registration and civil registry transactions; marriage registration and death registration.
 - Passport renewal and first passports; Turkish citizenship matters, **including reporting U.S. citizenship to the civil registry.**
 - Military service procedures; notarial acts, powers of attorney and signature certification.
 - Judicial matters, criminal record certificates and service of process; e-Devlet credentials; renewal of a Turkish driver license.
 - Employment and social security documents.
 - **Almost all of it is by appointment, and we print no document list in this guide.** Every transaction has its own fee and its own document list, and we could not verify them one by one this round. **Driving 650 kilometers with the wrong document would be the most expensive advice this guide could give you;** confirm the list from the appointment menu and the call center.
- 1 **Try e-Devlet first.** Civil registry, address and some document transactions can be done remotely; check there first which ones can. Seen from here, that is the price of a plane ticket.
 - 2 **Call the call center, +90 312 292 29 29.** It is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and it is the fastest way to learn which documents are needed; being able to call at night because of the time difference is an advantage here.
 - 3 **Ask about the courier or mail route.** Some transactions run by sending documents in; ask the call center or the mission which ones are accepted, and do not send anything on your own initiative.

- 4 **If you need an apostille, finish it before the Chicago appointment.** The apostille is issued at the other end of the metro and mailing time is required.
- 5 **Book the appointment in the morning.** In-person visits run from 9:30 a.m. to noon and that window is not negotiable.

THE ATTACHE OFFICES IN THE SAME BUILDING

- **Education Attache:** same address, +1 312 263 0644 extension 811, chicago@meb.gov.tr. For a child's school registration and equivalency matters in Türkiye you do not have to travel to another city; it can be added to the same appointment day.
- **Commercial Attache:** same address, extensions 888 and 812, chicago@trade.gov.tr.
- **Press Attache:** same address, extension 835, chicago@iletisim.gov.tr.
- **One extra detail, because school matters here depend on the district: three separate school districts** share the city and the City's lookup tells you which one serves your address. The equivalency work on the Turkish side runs independently of that district, but you need to know which district you are in when you request the record from the school.

Military service: deliberately without figures

- Military service procedures run through the mission and sit as a separate heading in its own procedure menu.
- **We print no amount, no age limit and no term here:** the conditions and the fees for the paid and overseas-residency routes change from period to period and we **could not verify** the current position from an official source this round. Planning around a wrong figure would be the worst service this guide could do you.
- **The right step:** call the call center and ask what applies to your own year of birth and status. Amounts circulating on forums and private advisory sites generally belong to earlier periods, and some steps cannot be undone once a payment is made.
- **If you have naturalized:** for dual citizens, reporting U.S. citizenship to the Turkish civil registry is generally a precondition on the military service side.
- **Registration and records:** check whether your Minnetonka address and marital status appear correctly in the civil registry; some of that can be done through e-Devlet.
- **The appointment window is narrow:** because in-person visits run two and a half hours a day, combining military service with another matter on the same day may require two appointments. **If you are planning to fly to Türkiye over the year-end holiday,** confirm your own position with the call center before you buy the ticket.

Apostille: five dollars, and five grounds for rejection

ITEM	DETAIL
Issuing unit	The authentication desk of the Minnesota Secretary of State; it certifies the signature of a state official or a Minnesota notary where the document will be used outside the United States

ITEM	DETAIL
Fee	5 \$ per apostille , and an apostille is issued per document submitted , so two documents cost 10 dollars
Mailing address	First National Bank Building, 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 made out to the unit
In person	By appointment , and appointments open 14 days ahead
Return route	The document is mailed to the address on the form; if the form has no address, to the address on the payment. For tracking you may enclose a stamped addressed envelope or a prepaid courier label

- **Seen from a suburb this is not half a day but nearly a full one.** The office is at the eastern end of the metro and this city is in the western half; crossing that corridor at the morning peak takes a long time, and driving solo in the corridor's express lane means a **dynamic toll**. Without a car the trip involves transfers. **That is why mailing is the more sensible route for most readers.**
- **But the appointment window is narrow:** because appointments open 14 days ahead, do not plan to "go pick it up tomorrow." Open the calendar, book the appointment, then prepare the documents. **Missing your appointment time means waiting for one 14 days out.**
- **We give no processing figure, and that is deliberate.** The unit states that documents are processed **in the order received** and that using expedited mail for the return does not speed processing. No timeframe is published and we do not invent one; the "six to eight weeks" figure circulating on the site relates to **notary commission renewals**, not apostilles.
- **There is a conflict on payment and we print it as it stands:** the mail form asks for a check or money order, while the same office's outreach page says **only credit or debit cards are accepted and cash, checks and money orders are not**. **Confirm** in writing or by phone which payment method applies on the channel you will use.

FIVE GROUNDS FOR REJECTION: READ IT AS A CHECKLIST

- **An improper notarial act:** no notarial certificate at all, an invalid notary commission, or a stamp that does not match the signature. For sample certificates see [section 358.66 of the statutes](#).
- **A private document that was never notarized.**
- **A fee that is short or missing entirely.**
- **A document issued outside Minnesota. This ground costs the most time:** most of the documents a newcomer to this city holds come from another state or from a federal agency, and this unit cannot apostille them. A federal document such as a certificate of naturalization or a U.S. passport goes to the **U.S. Department of State authentications office**; another state's document goes to that state's own office.
- **No original signature on the document.**
- **Do not break the order:** you obtain the document first, have it notarized next if required, and the **apostille comes last**. Nothing can be changed on a document after it is apostilled. And **translation is a separate job**: an apostille certifies the original, it does not translate the contents.

The document itself: the first link is easy here

The first link in the apostille chain is the document itself, and in Minnesota that link is easier than expected. According to the Minnesota Department of Health's own statement, **all 87 counties work on the same statewide system and serve you regardless of where you live**. So for a birth certificate you do not have to go to the county where the birth occurred; **the nearest county counter does the job**. There is an official way out on identification too: **a person without acceptable identification can have a witness complete a statement of identification form**. Download the form and bring your witness; preparing it at home rather than learning about it at the counter saves a visit. **We could not verify the county fee for a certified record**, so call the county before you go.

One more planning rule: at county service centers **only one transaction is done per appointment** and **appointments cannot be made more than four weeks ahead**. So do not plan to pick up a marriage license and a birth certificate on the same day; a second matter means a second appointment. For a reader whose family is arriving from abroad, that is a planning item in itself.

Time difference and Istanbul flights

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

- Türkiye stays on the same time all year and does not observe daylight saving, so the gap shifts twice a year on its own. **Put November 1, 2026 in your calendar**, because it is very easy to shift an hour when you are calculating a connection while buying a ticket.
- **The practical window:** 9 a.m. here is 5 p.m. in Türkiye now, and 6 p.m. after November. The easiest time to speak with family or a government office in Türkiye is **the morning here**. The trap runs the other way

too: if an office in Türkiye works 9 to 5 on weekdays, the window to call from here starts after midnight, which is why the call center and e-Devlet also solve the time difference.

- **The honest answer on flights: Istanbul does not appear** on the metro international airport's own nonstop route list. **Amsterdam** appears as the European gateway, and no destination toward Türkiye or the Middle East is listed. Because the interactive map on the page did not load fully, **we say "not on the list," not "definitely none."**
- **The realistic routing is one connection:** through a European hub, or connecting to a U.S. gateway served by the Turkish flag carrier. **We do not print which U.S. gateway**, because we did not read the airline's own route list and naming the wrong city would make the ticket more expensive.
- **The size of the airport is good news:** by the authority's own announcement, more than 36 million passengers and **35 nonstop international destinations** were reported for 2025, eight of them in Europe. Connection options are plentiful and the first leg departs from your own metro; what is missing is the Istanbul route. **Seasonal routes are a real issue**, so check whether the route operates in that month before you buy.
- **The planned light rail extension does not solve this picture.** The extension will have a station in this city, but **it does not serve the airport directly**; for the airport you still transfer downtown. **We could not verify the opening date**, so there is no date in this guide and you should not build a flight plan around one.
- **One detail on the train side:** the interstate passenger train stops in the metro, but its stop is in the old depot building in **downtown Saint Paul**, which from here means crossing from one end of the metro to the other. A plan that treats the metro as one place breaks down here. We **could not verify** the intercity bus stop addresses or schedule in the metro; confirm them from the carrier's own page.
- **The identity document for an international flight is your passport.** Minnesota's standard license is not an accepted document at the airport.

DO NOT CONFUSE THIS WITH YOUR U.S. IMMIGRATION MATTERS

The consulate handles matters relating to Türkiye. Your U.S. visa, green card or naturalization applications are the business of federal agencies. If you have a pending green card application, check your advance parole status before traveling to Türkiye. If you naturalize, remember to report your U.S. citizenship to the Turkish civil registry; for dual citizens that is also a precondition on the military service side. And for Turkish documents you will use in the United States for your immigration file, the direction reverses: those are apostilled in Türkiye and submitted here with a certified English translation.

TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN MINNETONKA

Have a question about your immigration status?



Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Minnetonka and the surrounding area, 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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