

GUIDE • MISSOURI

Turkish Consulate, Apostille and Documents from Missouri 2026

The consulate does not recognize the state line. The long-form birth certificate, the real name of the single status document, the apostille shortcut and a contradiction on identification.

SHORT ANSWER

There is no Turkish consulate in Missouri, but you are covered by a full consulate general: the **Consulate General in Chicago**. And the most reassuring line in this guide is this: **the same mission also covers the neighboring state**, so the state line that divides almost everything else in the flagship metro **does not divide the consulate**. The window is narrow: **visits by appointment 9:30 a.m. to noon**, telephone applications **2 p.m. to 4 p.m.** On the document side there is a trap: **local vital records offices cannot issue a long-form birth certificate**, and consular business usually wants the long form.

The Consulate General in Chicago

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
Switchboard	+1 312 263 0644 , fax +1 312 263 1449
Emergency (duty) line	+1 773 386 3213 . A different number from the switchboard; this is the one to call for an arrest, a serious accident or a death
Email	consulate.chicago@mfa.gov.tr
Counter hours, by appointment	9:30 a.m. to noon . Two and a half hours a day. This is the figure that decides whether a trip from the flagship city is worth making
Telephone applications	2 p.m. to 4 p.m. , so telephone questions are taken only in the afternoon
Appointments	An online system runs both for Turkish citizens (consular services) and for foreign nationals (visa pre-application)
Offices at the same address	The Press Attaché (switchboard extension 835) and the Educational Attaché (extension 811)
The web address has a hyphen	The live host is chicago-cg.mfa.gov.tr , with a hyphen. Spellings without it do not resolve, which is why a link from a search result sometimes fails

The consular district: thirteen states, and the state line does not split it

In the mission's own words the district is: **Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin**. Two names on that list matter for this guide: **Missouri and Kansas are both on it**. So the state line that splits the license, the registration, the property tax receipt and the inspection in the flagship metro **makes no difference to consular business**: whichever side you live on, you use the same appointment system, the same window and the same building. The immigration court and the time zone also cover both sides at once. On the split side the list is long: the license, the registration, the plates, the inspection, the property tax receipt and the vehicle sales tax never cross. Contact: chicago-cg.mfa.gov.tr.

The journey: a same-day round trip is not realistic

- **From the flagship city to Chicago** is roughly **500 miles (800 km)** by road, usually **eight hours**, and about an hour and a half by air. From the large city at the other end of the state it is roughly **300 miles (480 km)**, about four and a half hours, and that corridor **also has a train**. **These distances and times are our own calculation**; neither the consulate nor any transport authority publishes them.
 - **Because the window closes at noon, a same-day round trip by road from the flagship city is not realistic**. By air it is tight but possible; plan either an overnight stay or the first flight of the morning.
 - **No hour is lost**: Chicago, like Missouri, is on Central Time, so the journey costs you no clock time.
 - **Mobile consular days: the research found none**. With a thirteen-state district and an eight-hour drive, the single most useful thing to know would be whether the consulate runs mobile consular days in Missouri, and we found no such program in this research. We are not writing "there is none": call the switchboard and ask before you plan the trip, because if there is one it changes everything.
 - **Ask whether you can combine several matters into one appointment**: a passport renewal and a civil registry matter can sometimes be done in one visit, and that is a whole journey saved. Confirm the document list by telephone **between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.**, because that is when telephone questions are taken.
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Two Missouri documents Türkiye will want

- **The single status document has an official name and almost nobody knows it: Statement of Single Status**. In the department's description, a document verifying whether a person has any marriage on record in the state of Missouri. This is the Missouri equivalent of the certificate of capacity to marry that Turkish authorities and many foreign civil registries ask for before a marriage abroad, and most people fail to request it because they cannot find the name. **Ask for it by name**.
- **Only the state office issues it**, not local vital records offices, and its scope is marriages and divorces **from July 1, 1948** onward. The close-family requirements that apply to birth certificates apply to this document too.
- **The long-form birth certificate**: the state office is the **Bureau of Vital Records at 930 Wildwood Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65109**, telephone **573-751-6387** (weekdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Counter service is

weekdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., an appointment is recommended, and **the last person is taken at 2:30 p.m.** The registry begins January 1, 1910 for births and deaths and July 1, 1948 for marriages and divorces.

- **Records are not public:** a certified copy goes only to a person with a **direct and tangible interest** in the record. Birth certificates go only to immediate family, and the applicant must **identify at least one parent on the record**; that is the route for a Turkish parent getting the certificate of a child born in the US. A **notarized third-party authorization** also works.
- **We publish no fee table**, because the fee subpage and fee file would not open during the research; there is a search fee of roughly **\$14 to \$15** per record and a reduced fee for additional copies ordered at the same time, so confirm the exact figure before you mail a check. Three rules cost people money: **a search fee must accompany every request** and one fee buys **a five-year search**; **the fee is not refunded if no record is found**; and payment must be by check or money order **drawn on a United States bank**, so a **check from a Turkish bank does not work**.

THE LONG-FORM TRAP, AND THE CONTRADICTION ON IDENTIFICATION

- **There are two counters and they do not issue the same thing.** The **115 local vital records offices** across the state offer walk-in service and are the fastest route, and the department itself recommends requesting locally. **But a local office can only issue the short form** (births from 1920, deaths from 1980). The state office issues records from 1910 and **the long form as well as the short form**.
- **Consular business and immigration filings usually want the long form**, and only **Jefferson City** issues it: **4 to 8 weeks** by mail. Going to a local office for a quick short form and then learning it is not accepted is the most common mistake in this state. If a consular appointment needs the long form, order it weeks in advance.
- **And the contradiction: a Turkish passport is not on the primary identification list for Missouri vital records.** The department's list is a closed list of six items: a state-issued driver license, a state-issued identification card, a US military identification card, a US passport with photograph, a **school identification card or record**, and a **work identification card** bearing the applicant's name, photograph and company name. In the same state, Jackson County names "Foreign Passport" for a marriage license; **for a vital record a Turkish passport does not count as primary identification**. In exchange, **a work ID and a school ID are on the list**, and those can genuinely be within reach for a newcomer.
- **The alternative list is long, and in person two of these stand in for a photo identification:** a letter from a government agency or social service organization, a Social Security card or number printout, a pay stub showing the number, a certified deed, a vehicle title or registration, proof of vehicle insurance, an insurance policy, a Medicaid or Medicare card, **utility bills showing your name and address**, court-approved adoption papers, and a school yearbook. **A practical combination: a utility bill plus an insurance policy.**
- **For a mail request notarization is mandatory and the notary must be registered in the US.** For documents notarized abroad the department points to a notarizing officer at a **US Embassy or Consulate**, or a local foreign notary plus an authentication for use in the US: **a plain Turkish notary seal is not accepted on its own**. Remote online notarization is accepted **but the document still has to be mailed**. And on the internet or telephone route, identity is verified **electronically against public record data**; for someone with almost no US record footprint that verification is likely to fail, so the realistic route is going to a local office in person.

The apostille: fee, rules and a shortcut

- The apostille comes from the **Notaries and Commissions unit of the Secretary of State**, at **Commissions, Secretary of State Office, 600 West Main, Room 322, Jefferson City, MO 65101**, telephone **(573) 751-2783**, toll free **(866) 223-6535 option 3**. The fee is **\$10 for each certification or authentication**.
- The office's own examples show how the number comes out: if one document carries **several notarizations by the same notary the fee is \$10**; if **several documents all carry the same notary's notarization the fee is \$10 per document**; if **one document carries notarizations by different notaries the fee is \$10 per notary**. For adoption documents the statute caps the fee at **\$100 per child**.
- **Apostille or authentication, the country decides**. The office's own sentence is that the country where the document will be used determines which certificate this office attaches; an apostille is issued only for countries party to the Hague Convention. Türkiye is a party, but we did not re-read the party list in this research: on your request **write that the document is for use in Türkiye and ask for an apostille**, and let the office pick the right certificate.
- Payment is by check or money order payable to **"Secretary of State Office"**, or by card with an additional processing fee. **A credit card payment page and a cover letter must be included** with the package. Return is by regular mail unless you enclose a prepaid self-addressed envelope or shipping label.

DOCUMENT	WHAT IS NEEDED
Birth certificate	A certified copy from the Bureau of Vital Records (573-751-6387)
Marriage license	A certified copy from the Recorder of Deeds of the county where the marriage was performed, or a statement relating to marriage from the Bureau of Vital Records
Divorce decree	A certified copy from the circuit clerk of the county where the divorce is recorded
School documents	A certified copy from the school
Notarized documents	Must carry a complete notarial paragraph, signature and seal. A missing notarial paragraph sends the document back

The shortcut is the most practical item in this section and most people do not know it. In the department's words, certified vital records ordered through the external ordering system **can be forwarded directly to the Secretary of State office for apostille and authentication** and then sent on to the recipient. How: you select **"Apostille/Authentication"** as the reason when you order; if you do not select it, the shortcut does not run. **If you missed it there is one window:** call **573-751-6387, option 1** on the next business morning **between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.** to catch the order before it is processed. Documents go to the Secretary of State office **about once a week** and that office contacts the customer itself about payment. **A long-form document is recommended for an apostille**, and only the state office issues the long form. The normal route is: order the document, wait for it, mail it to Jefferson City, wait again; the shortcut collapses that into one order. One last warning: **the apostille office certifies the official's authority, not the content or the translation of the document**. If an institution in Türkiye wants a sworn translation, you have to arrange that separately. And a date note: the state's vital records system is being **replaced in phases through the summer of 2027**, and current users may need to re-register during 2026. Apostille page: [sos.mo.gov document certification](https://sos.mo.gov/document-certification).

Time difference and flights to Istanbul

- **Missouri is on Central Time**, one hour further behind than the East Coast states in this series. On daylight saving time Türkiye is **8 hours ahead**; on standard time it is **9 hours ahead**. What changes the gap is **the American clock**: Türkiye never moves its clocks. The next change is **Sunday, November 1, 2026** (the gap goes to 9 hours), and the one after that is **Sunday, March 14, 2027** (back to 8 hours). Between November and March it is 9 a.m. in Missouri and 6 p.m. in Istanbul, so calling home means using the early part of the Missouri day.
- **Crossing the state line does not change the clock**, and Chicago is in the same zone, so the consulate trip costs you no clock time either.
- **There is no nonstop to Istanbul, and no nonstop to Europe at all.** The airport's own nonstop destinations page says flights serve cities in the United States, Canada and Mexico, but the published list contains **no European, Asian, African or Middle Eastern city**; the only non-US points are Cancun and San Jose del Cabo, Montego Bay and Punta Cana, all leisure routes and some seasonal. **Türkiye never appears on the list.**
- Two honesty notes. **The capture we read is about a year old** and the live page would not open in this research, so check the airport's own page before buying. **And a conflict, which we are printing:** the airport's promotional sentence names Canada, but **the published nonstop list contains no Canadian city**. If a Canadian connection matters to you, ask the airport.
- **Every journey connects.** The US airports reachable nonstop from the flagship city that serve as Turkish Airlines or partner gateways are **Chicago O'Hare, New York JFK, Newark, Washington Dulles, Atlanta, Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston Intercontinental and Miami**. We did not research which airline sells that route on a single ticket, so no airline is recommended here; when you buy, ask whether baggage transfers automatically and whether both legs are on the same ticket, because on separate tickets one delay breaks the whole plan.
- **If a guest is coming from Türkiye**, remember that **first entry happens at the connecting airport**, not in Missouri: immigration and customs are there. Leave a generous connection, and request wheelchair or escort assistance from the airline when you book. Have your guest check the I-94 record at first entry; if there is an error, the correction desk is at the airport and open four hours a day.

FOUR NOTES

- **The consulate does not recognize the state line**, so readers on both sides belong to the same mission. But **the counter is open two and a half hours a day** and that window decides how you plan the journey; do not plan a same-day road trip from the flagship city. **Telephone questions are taken only between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.**, so do not try to confirm your documents in the morning.
- **Who wants the document, and do they want the long form?** Start your planning with that question. Only Jefferson City issues the long form and it takes 4 to 8 weeks by mail; a short form picked up quickly at a local office can be sent back for consular business.
- **Ask for the apostille in the same order as the document.** If "Apostille/Authentication" is not selected as the reason, the process doubles, and if you missed it you have one window the next morning between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. **An apostille is not a translation:** if a sworn translation is wanted, arrange it separately.
- **If you are marrying in Türkiye, write down the name of the document you will be asked for: Statement of Single Status**, and only the state office issues it.
- A long trip to Türkiye can raise questions about time spent abroad for a green card holder, and travel history is asked item by item in a naturalization application. **Asking about those two points before you plan is easier than explaining them afterward.**



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN MISSOURI

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