

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · NEW ORLEANS

Consular, Military Service and Apostille Matters from New Orleans 2026

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SHORT ANSWER

Louisiana is covered by the **Turkish Consulate General in Houston**, and the mission's own sentence lists its jurisdiction: **Louisiana is one of eight states. So the mission is not in the same state**, which makes this document's most practical advice mandatory: **book the appointment in advance and finish all your business in one trip**. The counter is open **weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**, which is half a day. **Apostilles are not done at the consulate but at the office of the Secretary of State**, and the fee is **\$20.00 per document**. **On military service, do not skip a stage**: distance learning is **mandatory** and the consular step does not open before it is finished. **We do not publish the payment amount** and we say why below.

Jurisdiction and contact

The sentence on the mission's own page says the jurisdiction covers **Texas, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Tennessee**. **Consular addresses are permitted in this document**.

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
Working hours	Weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ; visa application hour 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Consular call center, 24 hours a day	+90 312 292 29 29
Toll free from the U.S. and Canada	+1 888 566 7656

The **Religious Affairs, Education and Commercial** attache offices are in the same building. The call center page also has an **interpreter search** link.

An appointment is required, and plan more than one task per trip

The mission asks that you take an appointment from the **central appointment system** before visiting. The system works through a single door: you choose the country and the mission to book, and there are separate flows for **checking** and **canceling** an appointment. **The practical rule that follows:** because the mission is in another state, plan **more than one task in a single trip**; line up a power of attorney, a civil registry transaction, a passport and an e-Government password on the same day and book accordingly.

What is handled there

- Headings listed in the mission's service catalog: **birth, civil registry, YUVAM accounts, marriage, passport, military service, notarial services, citizenship, death, judicial matters, e-Government, driver's license and employment.**
- **Notarial services:** a **power of attorney** for a sale, an inheritance division or a lawsuit in Turkey is drawn up here. **Have the text written in advance by your lawyer in Turkey or by the institution that will act on it** and bring that text to the appointment; a power of attorney with missing authority means a second trip to Houston.
- **Judicial matters: criminal record certificates** and service of process.
- **E-Government: password** transactions. Many filings in Turkey need that password to be done remotely.
- **Employment:** service and homemaker record transactions and social security information. **The service record needed for pension crediting comes from this item.**
- **We state a limit plainly:** we did not measure **fees or document lists per transaction** this round. The mission gives them on separate subpages; **open the relevant subpage before booking and print the document list.**

HONORARY CONSULATE: RESEARCH COULD NOT FIND ONE

- The mission's **own pages do not mention honorary consulates at all**; the subordinate units heading on the contact page lists only the three attache offices.
- A separate search found honorary consulates of other countries in this city but **none for Turkey.**
- **We do not say none exists; we say research could not find one.**
- **And a warning:** even if one exists, **it may not handle passports**; no institutional text on the limits of honorary missions was read this round.

Foreign currency military service: the mandatory stage is distance learning

The Ministry of National Defense's own portal says the distance learning required of those using the foreign currency military service option **is delivered through that portal** and that it is **a mandatory stage required by statute**. Two conditions apply for using the portal, and the distinction in the second one changes a reader's situation directly:

SITUATION	WHAT IS REQUIRED
Turkish citizenship only	With a residence or work permit, at least three years of actual work in one of the listed statuses
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.**
- **The order:** an account is opened on the portal **with a Turkish identification number, course content and end-of-section questions** are completed, then an application is made to the consulate you are attached to **with documents proving your residence and work situation and a valid passport. In Louisiana that is the Consulate General in Houston.**
- **So the consular step does not open before the course is finished.** Complete the course before booking; otherwise the trip is wasted and the mission is not in the same state.
- **The payment: we publish no figure and we say why.** The numbers circulating for 2026 do not agree; **the institution'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 number you saw online.**
- **Deferment and postponement procedure** could not be read from the institution's own text this round either; ask the mission about it.

THE BLUE CARD: THE MOST FREQUENTLY CONFUSED ITEM

- By the Ministry of Foreign Affairs definition, the **Blue Card** is an official document issued to **those who were Turkish citizens by birth and lost Turkish citizenship by obtaining a release**, and to the descendants the statute lists.
- **So becoming a U.S. citizen does not by itself end Turkish citizenship;** the Blue Card arises only on **release**. A person who keeps dual citizenship continues with a Turkish identity card and passport, not a Blue Card.
- **Rights:** apart from the exceptions the statute lists, the rights granted to Turkish citizens **continue to apply**.
- **The exceptions the statute lists: voting and standing for election**, duty-free import of a vehicle or household goods, and **the obligation to perform military service. Vested social security rights are preserved.**
- **Public office limit:** no tenured **core and permanent public service post** may be held; employment in public institutions as a **worker, temporary or contract staff** is possible.
- **Identification number:** records are moved to the Blue Card registry **without a change in the Turkish identification number.**
- **Let us state the result plainly:** for a person who keeps dual citizenship the military obligation **continues**, and the route runs through the foreign currency option.

Pensions: crediting time spent abroad

- **Creditable periods:** documented insurance periods spent abroad after turning 18, periods of unemployment **of up to one year each** between or after them, and periods spent abroad **as a homemaker.**

Periods before age 18 are out of scope.

- **Where the document comes from:** in the relevant cases a **service record obtained from a Turkish embassy or consulate general** is attached to the petition. **In Louisiana that record comes from the Consulate General in Houston**, and the **employment** item in the catalog is exactly this.
- **The amount: 45 percent** of the daily earnings base chosen by the applicant between the lower and upper limits in force on the application date, multiplied by the number of days credited. The assessed debt is paid **within three months of notification**; otherwise a new application is needed. **Partial crediting is possible.**
- **What it does and does not do:** credited work periods count **only toward a retirement or old-age pension**; they are **not counted for disability or survivors' pensions.**
- **A final return to Turkey** is required for a pension to be granted, and a separate **declaration and undertaking** is taken at application; those who continue to work abroad can have a pension request refused.
- **We publish a contradiction:** two sources disagree on the citizenship requirement. One page requires **Turkish citizenship at the time of crediting**; a guide published by the same institution says a 2014 act **removed the requirement of Turkish citizenship at the application date. We pick no side**; ask before you apply which one governs today.

Apostille: two stages, \$20.00 per document

The apostille authority is the **Commissions Division of the Louisiana Secretary of State** and the process has **two stages**. First you get a **certified copy** from the issuing office, then you send that copy to the Secretary of State. **And we write the most common mistake up front:** the office's own sentence says **no apostille will be issued for documents intended for use within the United States.**

ITEM	DETAIL
Fee	\$20.00 per document ; \$10.00 if it relates to an adoption
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

- **Where the certified copy comes from:** for a birth certificate, a death certificate or this parish's marriage certificate the door is the **state vital records registry**, and **its central office is in this city**. So you can get the certified copy the same day; **ordering by mail takes 8 to 10 weeks.**
- **Whose signature is certified:** notaries, clerks of court and their deputies, ex officio notaries, sheriffs and their deputies, judges, justices of the peace and the state registrar of vital records. It also covers **transcripts and diplomas** signed by the registrar, president or a dean of an accredited university in this state.
- **Documents issued by clerks of court and the state vital records office need no notarization.** But the office's own sentence adds: **photocopies of those records are not accepted.**

- **Documents certified by anyone not on that list** must be notarized by a **Louisiana notary**, with the notary's **printed name and notary identification number below the signature**.
- **Return shipping is not paid by the office:** you send a prepaid envelope or label, and the office warns you **not to put the Secretary of State's address on the return label**. A mail request also needs a **cover letter stating which country the document is going to**.
- **An apostille does not certify the content of a document;** it certifies only the signature, the seal and the capacity of the signer. **And it does not translate:** if the document will be used in Turkey a **sworn translation** may also be required, and the Turkish authority that will accept it sets the method.

NOTARIES ARE A DIFFERENT INSTITUTION IN THIS STATE

- The civil code treats a document executed before a notary with **two witnesses**, signed by the parties, the witnesses and the notary, as an authentic act; such an act constitutes **full proof** as to the parties and their successors.
- The statute lists among a notary's powers **receiving wills, making protests, making matrimonial contracts, drawing conveyances and in general all contracts**. In most other states these are a lawyer's work.
- Notaries hold their commission **for life**, must pass a **statewide examination** and post a **\$50,000 bond or personal surety**. **The notary's signature stands in place of a seal and the commission is parish based;** a notary commission from another state does not carry over.
- **There is no statutory fee schedule:** the office's own sentence says no statute sets or limits what a notary may charge. **Ask the price in advance and take several quotes.**
- **And we refute a common sentence:** the claim that a transfer of immovable property in Louisiana must be made before a notary is **wrong**. The civil code's own article says a transfer may be made **by authentic act or by act under private signature**.

Time difference and flights to Istanbul

- **All of Louisiana is in the central time zone**, grounded in the federal regulation: the state appears in **none** of the sections defining the eastern and mountain zone boundaries.
- **This state observes daylight saving time and Turkey does not.** The gap therefore shifts only because of the change on the U.S. side: **8 hours behind during daylight saving time, 9 hours behind in the winter period**.
- **The transitions fall on the second Sunday in March and the first Sunday in November; in those transition weeks the gap changes within a single week.**
- **Where it matters most:** a consular appointment (the counter is open for half a day), a court hearing, a phone call with an institution in Turkey, and flight connection times. **Confirm the time twice, especially in March and November.**
- **There is no nonstop flight from this city to Istanbul.** On the airport's own list the **only nonstop European point is London Heathrow;** the other nonstop international points are Toronto and seasonally Cancun.
- **On the other hand every connecting gateway is nonstop:** Houston, Atlanta, Dallas, Charlotte, Newark, New York, Chicago, Washington and Miami. So Istanbul is practically **one connection away**.
- **We do not write which airline flies to Istanbul:** that airline's site did not open this round and we could not verify it. **We publish no flight time or distance either.**

- **Getting to the airport:** the city's own route is **\$1.25**; the neighboring parish route is \$1.50 inside that parish and \$2.00 if it crosses into this city. **Transfers between the two systems are not valid**; the only bridge is the **\$6.00** regional pass. The airport is **in the neighboring parish** but it is operated by this city's own board.
 - **One warning on connections:** if you connect through Europe, check **transit visa rules** and how your status is treated in that country in advance. That is **a visa question, not a flight question**.
- 1 Line up all your business into a single trip;** the counter is open 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and the mission is in another state.
 - 2 Print the document lists from the relevant subpages;** fees and documents vary by transaction.
 - 3 For military service, complete the portal registration and distance learning first;** an appointment is useless before the course is done.
 - 4 Confirm the payment amount with the mission before you pay;** it depends on the exchange rate that day and no figure appears in this document.
 - 5 Plan the apostille backwards:** find out first what the institution in Turkey requires.
 - 6 On vital records you are lucky:** the central office is in this city and you can get a certified copy the same day. **Photocopies are not accepted.**
 - 7 Ask a notary's price in advance;** there is no statutory fee schedule in this state.
 - 8 For statewide consular, military service and apostille information see [our Louisiana guide](#).**



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN NEW ORLEANS

Have a question about your immigration status?

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