

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · SOUTH CAROLINA

# Turkish Consulate and Apostille Business from South Carolina 2026

The mission serving you is Miami and in-person applications are taken only in the morning. The apostille is handled inside the state, but by the secretary of state, not the vital records agency.

## SHORT ANSWER

South Carolina sits in the district of the **Consulate General in Miami**. Not Houston, not New York, not the embassy in Washington; the mission lists its consular district on its own contact page as **Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Puerto Rico**. The practical consequence is plain: every in-person matter means a trip across state lines, and **in-person applications are taken only between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.**, so a trip that lands in the afternoon wastes the day. **There is a conflict in the call center number and we do not print just one**; both appear below. The **apostille** needed for a document to be used in Türkiye is handled inside the state, but the right door matters: **the secretary of state issues the apostille, the vital records agency does not**.

## Which mission covers which states

| ITEM                                | INFORMATION                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mission                             | Consulate General of the Republic of Türkiye in <b>Miami</b>                                                                      |
| Consular district                   | Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, <b>South Carolina</b> and Puerto Rico                                                           |
| Address                             | <b>80 SW 8th St., Suite 2700, Miami, FL 33130</b> . The mission's own note: building entrance at the corner of 1st Ave and 9th St |
| Main line                           | <b>+1 786 655 03 15</b>                                                                                                           |
| Duty officer, after-hours emergency | +1 305 646 82 08                                                                                                                  |
| Fax                                 | +1 786 310 75 84                                                                                                                  |
| Email                               | consulate.miami@mfa.gov.tr                                                                                                        |
| Office hours                        | Weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.                                                                        |
| In-person application hours         | <b>Only 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.</b>                                                                                                |
| Between 2:00 and 5:00 p.m.          | In the mission's own words, hours for information and applications <b>by telephone and mail</b>                                   |
| Commercial attache                  | Same building, Suite 2700; (786) 431 1184, fax (786) 431 1833, miami@ticaret.gov.tr                                               |

**THERE IS A CONFLICT IN THE CALL CENTER NUMBER, SO WE PRINT NO SINGLE ONE**

- The mission's own contact page gives **+90 312 292 29 29** for the consular call center that is open seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day.
- By contrast, the pages of the other Turkish missions we examined in this series give **+1 888 566 76 56** for the same service, a number dialable from inside the United States.
- **Both numbers appear on pages within the ministry's own domain** and we could not resolve which should be preferred during this round. **We will not print one number and send you to the wrong line.**
- **What to do:** if one does not connect, try the other, or call the mission's main line directly and ask which number you should use. We do not resolve the conflict quietly, because the conflict sits on the mission's own page.

## What is handled here

- The mission's procedure menu lists the categories by name: **birth, civil registry, marriage, passport, military service, notarial acts, citizenship**, plus a visa pre-application for people who are not Turkish citizens. Each category's own page publishes the procedure, the fees and the documents required.
- **We do not write the fees into this guide.** Fees change and the only place to read them is the mission's own page. Going to the counter with a figure taken from a guide is the most expensive mistake available at this distance.
- **The appointment system runs on separate tracks:** one for the consular transactions of Turkish citizens, another for visa pre-applications by foreign nationals. The system keeps separate sections for booking, **checking** and **canceled** an appointment; cancel the moment you know you cannot go, because at this distance an appointment slot is valuable.
- **There is a written channel:** the contact page carries a write-to-us form and an emergency form; the subject list includes birth, civil registry, marriage, passport, military service, notarial acts, citizenship, estates, education and visas.
- **On military service we deliberately give no figures.** The amount and conditions of the paid exemption change from period to period and we could not verify the current version from an official source during this round. Amounts circulating on forums generally belong to earlier periods, the amount is set in lira or euro, and **there are steps that cannot be undone once payment is made.** Your contact is the mission's military service category page.
- **Closed days in 2026 and early 2027: October 12, 2026, October 29, 2026, November 11, 2026, November 26, 2026, December 25, 2026 and January 1, 2027.** For the full 2027 list, read the contact page again in December.
- **One thing we could not verify:** we **could not find** any record on the mission's site of mobile consular service being organized for South Carolina. That does not mean it does not happen, it means we could not see it; if you are looking for such an announcement, follow the mission's own notices.

## What to do before you travel, in order

- 1 Call first.** The mission expressly reserves the afternoon for telephone and mail business; ask **before you set out** whether your matter can be completed by mail. **Traveling this distance with the wrong document is the most expensive mistake in this guide.**
- 2 Check the national e-government portal for civil registry, address and some document matters,** [turkiye.gov.tr](https://turkiye.gov.tr); learn there first which transactions are handled remotely.
- 3** If you must appear in person, **book the appointment first, then plan the trip.** The system has separate tracks for citizen transactions and visa pre-applications.
- 4 Account for the in-person window closing at 1:00 p.m.** If you plan to go and return the same day, you need a plan that reaches that window.
- 5 If you have a document for use in Türkiye, finish the apostille first.** The apostille is done inside the state and needs mailing time; that is the job to complete before the appointment.
- 6** Ask the mission whether the document also requires a **sworn translation** and where that translation must be done. **This is something to learn on the phone, not at the counter.**
- 7 Try to finish more than one matter in a single trip,** book appointments on the same day or consecutive days, and confirm the document list for each matter one by one.

## Apostille: inside the state, but at the right agency

Türkiye is a party to the Hague Apostille Convention, so a document issued here needs **an apostille, not consular legalization**, to be used in Türkiye. And there is a state-specific distinction: **the secretary of state issues the apostille, the health agency does not.** The health agency writes this on its own page and directs the reader there. The secretary of state's own definition: an apostille is **a state certification of the signature of the official who signed a public document.** The practical consequence is that your document must either be signed by **an elected or appointed official**, or by an authorized staff member whose signature is on file with the secretary of state, or be notarized by **a notary commissioned in South Carolina.**

| ITEM                     | REQUIREMENT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Where                    | <b>1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 525, Columbia, SC 29201</b> , to the authentications division. By mail, by courier or in person; walk-in hours <b>8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.</b> <b>We read the address and hours from a January 2025 archive record</b> , so confirm before you travel                                                                                            |
| Fee                      | The agency's page asks for <b>\$5 per document</b> , payable to the secretary of state by personal or business check, money order or cash. <b>We read that figure from the same archive record</b> , so confirm the current fee before you prepare the envelope                                                                                                                |
| What goes in the package | The secretary of state's <b>authentication cover letter</b> (the agency's own form); a <b>stamped return envelope with your own address on it</b> ; the fee; the documents themselves; and <b>the destination country</b> . The agency expressly asks for the destination, because it determines whether the document receives an apostille or a certificate of authentication |

| ITEM                                    | REQUIREMENT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>A document in a foreign language</b> | The agency's sentence: all documents in a foreign language must be submitted with a <b>signed, notarized English translation signed by the translator</b> , and <b>the translator's signature must also be notarized</b> . The same applies in the other direction. So <b>the translation is not an extra errand, it is part of the file</b> |
| <b>Grounds for refusal</b>              | The agency writes that documents appearing contrary to state or federal law, interest or policy will not be authenticated, and tells customers to check their documents again <b>before calling and before leaving the office</b>                                                                                                            |
| <b>Sub-routes</b>                       | The secretary of state publishes <b>separate guidance</b> for the authentication of vital records, notarized documents, documents certified by elected and appointed officials, and non-Hague countries; read which route your own document falls into on those pages                                                                        |

**Mailing is more sensible than driving here**, because there is nothing to do at the counter and Columbia is roughly two hours from the Charleston area. The secretary of state's apostille page: [sos.sc.gov/services-and-filings/apostilles](https://sos.sc.gov/services-and-filings/apostilles).

#### WHAT A BIRTH CERTIFICATE REALLY COSTS, AND TWO SEPARATE AGENCIES

- **The document itself is a fee separate from the apostille.** Vital records sit with the state **department of public health**: a standard record search is **\$12 per record** and includes one certified copy, an expedited search is **\$17**, and **each additional copy is \$3**. **The search fee is not refunded even if no record is found**, so be sure which state the record is in.
- **Sit down and calculate how many copies you need.** The first copy comes inside the \$12, but a second order makes you pay the search again; if a separate copy is required for school enrollment, consular business, the apostille and insurance, order them all **in the same order**.
- **The good news is on identification:** the agency's published list of accepted photo identification includes an **unexpired foreign passport**. But the warning is firm: **applications without proper identification are automatically rejected** and not processed. Check the validity of your passport before you go.
- **The newborn warning, in the agency's own words:** newborn birth certificates are not automatically mailed to parents and **the hospital does not order your child's birth certificate for you**. You have to request it.
- **There is a detail in the counter hours:** from January 1, 2026 all vital records offices are open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday **8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, and **Wednesday 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Do not miss the Wednesday difference. **There is no vital records counter in Mount Pleasant**; the county counter is at **3685 Rivers Ave., North Charleston, SC 29405**, phone **843-953-0032**. Mail orders are accepted **only at the state central office**, at the \$12 standard search, with a processing time of about **four weeks**: S.C. Department of Public Health, Vital Records Section, P.O. Box 2046, West Columbia, SC 29171.
- **The state does not apostille a federal document.** Federal documents such as a certificate of naturalization or a U.S. passport do not go through the secretary of state; they go to the **Department of State's authentications office**. Someone who does not know this distinction mails the document to the wrong agency and loses weeks.

---

## Marriage license: the right door and one piece of good news

It is easy to write the wrong door in this state, so we state it plainly: **the county probate court issues the marriage license** (the statute leaves that work to the clerk of court in only two counties), while **vital records sit with the state department of public health. The sentence "go to the county clerk" is wrong in South Carolina.** Because Mount Pleasant is in Charleston County, your office is the **Charleston County probate court.** And this page's most welcome news is in the statute's own wording: the application must contain **the Social Security numbers of the parties to be married, or the alien identification numbers assigned to resident aliens who do not have Social Security numbers.** So **the legislature expressly contemplated an applicant without a number**, and the section names it **"alien identification number"**; this is one of the rare provisions in this series that gives the reader direct good news. Do not leave that field blank on the application, and point the provision out at the counter. We also write the three firm rules: there is a **statutory twenty-four hour wait**, meaning the written application must be filed with the probate judge at least twenty-four hours before the license is issued and the license must show both the hour and date of the application and the hour and date of issuance, so **plan two visits; both parties must sign the application; and a couple cannot officiate their own marriage**, because the statute's list of authorized officiants is closed. Under 18 a birth certificate is requested, but in the statute's own alternative a **passport is named.** The base license fee in the statute is **one dollar** plus a **twenty dollar** surcharge directed to the domestic violence fund, so **\$21 is the statutory floor, not the counter price;** we **could not verify** the county's actual counter fee, its hours or whether the application can be started online, because the county's site was closed both directly and through the archive. **Confirm before you go.** The relevant chapter also contains **no residency requirement and no blood test;** we write that as "the statute imposes no such requirement", not as "there is none."

---

## How to set the order

For documents being sent to Türkiye the order is: **obtain the document, have it notarized if needed, attach a notarized translation for any document not in English, obtain the apostille, then use it.** Skip a step and send the document to Türkiye and going back to the beginning costs weeks. For Turkish documents you will use in the United States for your immigration file the direction reverses: those documents are **apostilled in Türkiye** and submitted here with a **certified English translation.** If your child was born here or you married here, you will need the **apostilled original** of the certificate for the civil registry; finish that **before** the Miami appointment. If you became a U.S. citizen, reporting that to the Turkish civil registry also runs through the same mission and is generally a precondition for military service matters for dual citizens. One last detail: an apostille certifies the original document, it **does not translate the contents;** ask the authority in Türkiye you will submit it to whether they require a sworn translation.



## TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

### Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients across South Carolina, in Turkish and English. Free evaluation: [clinchlaw.com/free-evaluation](https://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.

Attorney advertising. This guide is general information only. It is not legal advice and is not a substitute for the advice of an attorney. Information compiled from official sources as of October 8, 2026; fees and procedures change, so check the official site before you act. Reading this guide does not create an attorney-client relationship. The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements. Latest version: [clinchlaw.com/city-guides/south-carolina-immigration-attorney](https://clinchlaw.com/city-guides/south-carolina-immigration-attorney)