

FOR TURKISH RESIDENTS OF ST. PAUL

Consular and Apostille Matters from St. Paul 2026

There is no Turkish mission in Minnesota and the in-person window is two and a half hours a day. The apostille desk, on the other hand, is in this downtown, so you can build the chain in one city.

SHORT ANSWER

All of Minnesota, St. Paul 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 in Minnesota**, and the Midwest honorary consul general is in another state. From the metro the distance is roughly **650 kilometers**, and the detail that governs your planning is this: **in-person visits by appointment run only between 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.**, two and a half hours a day. This city has two advantages and both help here: **the region's train station, Union Depot, is in this downtown** with trains toward Chicago, and **the Minnesota Secretary of State apostille desk is in this downtown too**, at **\$5 per apostille**, though **appointments open only 14 days in advance**.

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
E-mail	consulate.chicago@mfa.gov.tr
Consular call center, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week	+90 312 292 29 29
Working hours	Weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
In-person visits by appointment	Only 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Applications by telephone	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Jurisdiction	13 Midwest states; Minnesota is on the list

Getting there from St. Paul: the real subject of this guide

- **The time difference is on your side:** Chicago and this city are both on Central time, so you do not have to convert the appointment time in your head.
- **The in-person window is two and a half hours a day.** You have to build your departure around it: if you fly, the first flight of the morning; if you drive, you may need to set off the day before. **A plan that arrives in the afternoon wastes the day.**
- **In this city the train is a genuine option and in the metro's other settlements it is not:** the region's intercity train station, **Union Depot**, is in this downtown and two services toward Chicago, the **Empire Builder** and the **Borealis**, leave from here. Someone living across the river has to plan an extra leg inside the metro to catch a train; **for someone living here the same station can be within walking distance.** Check the timetable on the carrier's own page.
- **If you fly, allow for a transfer.** Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) is not in this city and the METRO Green Line that comes here does not run to the airport; you transfer to the METRO Blue Line in the downtown across the river. That is a calculation a reader living in that downtown does not make.
- **Finish more than one errand 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 errands, so ask the call center.
- **Cancel the moment you know you cannot go.** One mission covers the entire Midwest and at this distance an appointment slot is genuinely valuable.

Which errands run through the consulate

- Birth registration and civil registry transactions; marriage registration and death registration.
 - Passport renewal and a first passport; Turkish citizenship matters, **including reporting U.S. citizenship to the Turkish civil registry.**
 - Military service matters; notarial services, powers of attorney and signature certification.
 - Judicial matters, criminal record certificates and service of documents; the e-Devlet password; renewal of a Turkish driving licence.
 - Employment and housewife certificates, working life and social security transactions.
 - **Nearly all of it is by appointment, and we do not print the 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. 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 find out which document is required; being able to call at night because of the time difference is an advantage here.
 - 3 **Ask about the courier or postal route.** Some transactions run by sending documents; ask the call center or the mission which ones are accepted, and do not send documents on your own initiative.

- 4 **If you need an apostille, finish it before the Chicago appointment.** The Minnesota Secretary of State desk is in this downtown, but appointments open 14 days in advance and you may need postal time.
- 5 **Book a morning slot.** In-person visits run from 9:30 to 12:00 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 equivalence matters in Türkiye you do not have to travel to a separate city; it can be added to the same appointment day.
- **Trade attache:** same address, extensions 888 and 812, chicago@trade.gov.tr.
- **Press attache:** same address, extension 835, chicago@iletisim.gov.tr.

Military service: we print no figures, and we say why

- Military service matters run through the consulate and sit as a separate heading on the mission's own list of services.
- **We print no amount, no age limit and no period here:** the conditions and fees for paid and foreign-currency military service change from period to period and we **could not verify** the current position from an official source this round. Planning against a wrong figure would be the worst service this guide could give you.
- **The right step:** call the call center and ask what applies to your own birth year and status. The amounts circulating on forums and private consultancy sites usually belong to earlier periods, and there are steps that cannot be undone once a payment is made.
- **If you have become a U.S. citizen:** for dual citizens, having reported U.S. citizenship to the Turkish civil registry is generally a precondition for the military service side.
- **Registration and records:** check that your address here and your marital status appear correctly in the civil registry; some of this can be done through e-Devlet. **If you moved here from across the river that is a change of address**, because they are two separate cities.
- **If your documents originate here, the order is:** apostille first, then the consular appointment. The apostille desk is in this city, so that step is not a trip for you; but account for the appointment window and postal time. 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.

The apostille: five dollars, and five grounds for refusal

ITEM	DETAIL
Issuing unit	The Minnesota Secretary of State authentication desk; it certifies the signature of a state official or a Minnesota notary where the document will be used outside the United States
Fee	\$5 per apostille , and an apostille is issued for each document presented , so two documents cost \$10

ITEM	DETAIL
Address	First National Bank Building, 332 Minnesota Street, Suite N201, Saint Paul, MN 55101 · in this downtown
Telephone	(651) 296-2803 or 1-877-551-6767, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
E-mail	apostille.oss@state.mn.us
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 carries no address, to the address on the payment. For tracking you can enclose a stamped addressed envelope or a prepaid courier label

- **The advantage of living here is clearest in this section:** the desk is in your own city, in fact in your downtown. For most readers in this series an apostille is a postal errand; for you it can be an appointment and a walk. For someone across the river it is half a day, and for someone in the north-west of the state it is a queue at the post office.
- **But the appointment window is narrow:** because appointments open 14 days in advance, do not plan on "going tomorrow to pick it up". Open the calendar, book the appointment, then prepare the documents. **Proximity is not a guarantee of speed either**, because documents are processed in the order received.
- **We give no figure for processing time and that is deliberate.** The unit writes that documents are processed **in the order received** and that using express mail for the return does not speed up processing. There is no published time and we do not invent one; the "six to eight weeks" figure circulating on the site relates to **notary commission renewals**, not to apostilles.
- **There is a conflict on payment and we print it as it stands:** the unit'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**. The two may describe different channels, but the gap is enough to waste an envelope or send you home empty-handed from the counter. **Confirm** in writing or by phone which payment method applies on the channel you will use.
- **There is a second counter in the same building:** the Minnesota Secretary of State business filing counter is here too, so if you are forming a company or registering an assumed name you go to the same address. That is also **by appointment**.

FIVE GROUNDS FOR REFUSAL: READ THEM AS A CHECKLIST

- **An improperly executed notarial act:** no notarial certificate at all, an invalid notary commission, or a stamp that does not match the signature.
- **A private document that has not been notarized.**
- **A fee that is short or not enclosed at all.**
- **A document issued outside Minnesota. This ground wastes the most time here:** most of the documents in the hands of someone newly arrived in this city come from another state or from a federal agency, and the Minnesota Secretary of State cannot apostille them. A federal document such as a certificate of naturalization or a U.S. passport goes to **the authentication unit of the U.S. Department of State**; another state's document goes to that state's own office. **The office may be in your downtown, but its authority is limited to Minnesota documents.**
- **A document with no original signature.**
- **Do not break the order:** you obtain the document first, have it notarized if required, and the **apostille comes last**. An apostilled document cannot be altered afterwards. And **translation is a separate errand**: the apostille certifies the original document, it does not translate the contents; ask which authority in Türkiye will receive it and whether they require a sworn translation.

The document itself: the first link is easy here, twice over

The first link in the apostille chain is the document itself, and in this city that link is easier than expected for two reasons. First, in the words of the Minnesota Department of Health, **all 87 counties work from the same statewide system and serve customers regardless of where they live**, so you do not have to go to the county where the birth happened, and that holds for Minnesota births from 1935 onward. Second, in Ramsey County **birth, death and marriage transactions sit at one counter, in Ramsey County Vital Records**; in Hennepin County the services run through a service centers network with a **one service per appointment** rule, so two documents cannot be collected in the same visit. Here it appears possible to gather both documents the apostille chain needs in a single visit, but **ask when you book whether you can do both in the same visit and note the answer**; we do not offer it as a promise. Put it in the budget as well: a certified birth certificate is **\$26**, each additional copy of the same record **\$19**, a noncertified copy **\$13**, a copy of a marriage record **\$10**, plus \$5 per apostille. There is an official way out on identification too: **a person without acceptable identification can have a witness complete the official statement of identification form**, and you can download the form in advance and go with your witness. One warning: **Ramsey County Vital Records moved to a new building**, so an older address you find online can send you to the wrong one.

The time difference and the Istanbul flight

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 clock all year and does not use 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 be an hour out when you

calculate 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 to family or to a government office in Türkiye is **the morning here**. The trap runs the other way too: if an institution in Türkiye works weekdays 9 to 5, the window for calling 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 is not on the nonstop list published by Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP). Amsterdam** appears as the European gateway, and no destination in Türkiye or the Middle East is named. Because the page's interactive map did not fully render, we say **"not listed" rather than "proven absent."**
- **The realistic routing is one stop:** through a European hub, or connecting to a U.S. gateway served by the Turkish flag carrier. **We do not say which U.S. gateway**, because we did not read the airline's own route list and naming the wrong city makes the ticket more expensive.
- **The size of the airport is good news:** 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. There are plenty of connections; what is missing is the Istanbul route. **Seasonal routes are a real issue**, so check before you buy whether the route operates in that month.
- **The honest answer on getting to the airport:** the METRO Blue Line stops at both MSP terminals and **travel between the two terminals is free**, but **that line does not come to this city**. From here by transit you change from the METRO Green Line to the METRO Blue Line in the downtown across the river; on a flight morning that is an extra leg and extra time.
- **On the train the advantage is yours:** the metro stop on the intercity rail route is at Union Depot in this downtown, so the extra leg someone across the river needs does not apply to you. On intercity buses we **could not verify** the stop address or the timetable here; confirm on the carrier's own page.
- **The document you will use on an international flight is your passport.** Minnesota's standard license is not an accepted document for boarding.

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

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



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN ST. PAUL

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in St. Paul and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English. Free evaluation: clinchlaw.com/free-evaluation · +1 866-491-7669

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