

FOR TURKISH CITIZENS IN WEST SPRINGFIELD

Turkish Consulate General in Boston: 2026 Guide from West Springfield

The longest consular trip in this series: 90 miles. Car, bus and train compared, booking, the services you can handle by mail, the apostille, military service and the time difference.

SHORT ANSWER

The Turkish Consulate General is at 31 Saint James Avenue, Suite 840, Boston MA 02116, phone +1 857 250 47 00. **This is the longest consular trip of any guide in this series:** about 90 road miles from Town Hall and roughly 1 hour 50 minutes in free-flowing traffic. By car or intercity bus it is a long day trip, and by train it is an overnight, because the eastbound train reaches Boston in the evening and the westbound one leaves at midday. Every service needs its own appointment on konsolosluk.gov.tr, and in-person applications are taken on weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Contact and booking

DETAIL	VALUE
Address	31 Saint James Avenue, Suite 840, Boston, MA 02116
Phone	+1 857 250 47 00
Email	consulate.boston@mfa.gov.tr
Emergency (duty) line	+1 857 207 9284
Consular Call Center	+1 888 566 76 56, and around the clock +90 312 292 29 29
Office hours	Weekdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 5 p.m.
In-person application hours	Weekdays 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Consular district	Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont and Connecticut
Education Attaché	Same address, Suite 840; boston_ozel@meb.gov.tr

- 1 konsolosluk.gov.tr → Randevu Al (book an appointment)
- 2 Consular Services for Turkish Citizens → Consulate General in Boston
- 3 Pick the service. Each service needs its own appointment. Visa business for non-citizens runs through a separate pre-application system.

Plan the journey up front: this is not a morning errand

This is the most practical warning in the guide. Someone living in Cambridge, Newton or Brookline is at the consulate door in 15 to 45 minutes on the subway. Here the same errand costs a day, or a night if you go by train. We have set out the three routes separately.

ROUTE	HOW IT WORKS	RESULT
Car	About 90 miles from Town Hall to 31 Saint James Avenue; roughly 1 hour 50 minutes without traffic and 2 to 2.5 hours in Boston traffic. East on the Mass Pike. For an 11 a.m. appointment you have to leave between 6:30 and 7 a.m.	A long day trip: 4 to 5 hours of driving plus the visit
Bus (Peter Pan, no transfer)	The 7:40 a.m. bus from Springfield Union Station (55 Frank B. Murray Street) reaches Boston South Station at 9:45; the trip is 2 hours 5 minutes. Return times are 11:25, 3:25 and 7:25 p.m. On the dates shown on the carrier's own page the fare was \$25	A day trip is possible: roughly 10 to 12 hours door to door
Train (Amtrak)	Only the Lake Shore Limited runs between Springfield and Boston. The eastbound train reaches Boston at 8 or 8:32 p.m.; the westbound one leaves South Station at 12:50 p.m.	Not a day trip: your appointment has to be in the morning and you have to stay a night in Boston

- **Why the train does not fit a day trip:** the consulate takes in-person applications between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Because the eastbound train arrives in the evening, you cannot reach Boston by train on the morning of your appointment; you have to travel the day before and stay the night. And because the return train leaves at 12:50 p.m., an afternoon appointment costs you that day too. So if you go by train, book a morning appointment and put a hotel night in the budget. The Amtrak timetable is a daily snapshot: check the days and times again before you travel.
- **The bus looks the most practical:** the 7:40 a.m. bus puts you at South Station at 9:45, comfortably in time for an appointment between 10:45 and noon, and the 3:25 p.m. return leaves you room in the afternoon. Springfield Union Station is about 1.9 miles from Town Hall, four minutes by car. **The town has no train or bus terminal of its own**, so both routes start at Union Station, and you can get there on a free PVTa bus.
- **From South Station to the consulate:** the Red Line to Park Street, then a westbound Green Line train (B, C, D or E) to Arlington. Arlington is about 0.1 mile from the building, roughly 120 meters. With the transfer it is a 20 to 30 minute trip; that is our estimate. Alternatively you walk from Back Bay, where the Orange Line and the commuter rail stop, which is about 0.3 mile from the consulate.
- **Mass Pike tolls:** the highway is entirely all-electronic. We could not read the total in an official table, so we print no figure: work out your own route with the [EZDriveMA calculator](#).
- **Is there a mobile consulate:** we read the consulate's announcements page and no mobile consular service to western Massachusetts or Connecticut has been announced for 2026. So rather than waiting in case they come here, book the appointment in Boston. If one is announced, it will appear on the consulate's own page.

Services, fees and the mail route

According to the consulate's own contact page, its district is six states: Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont and Connecticut. One office serves all of New England, and everyone arriving from Portland, Providence, Hartford and Boston's own neighborhoods comes through the same door. People travelling from here face a double disadvantage: you wait in the queue and you give up a day to the road. If your passport is expiring, or you have a dated obligation like the military service registration, do not leave the appointment to the last week.

SERVICE	HOW	FEE
Passport	In person only, by appointment	Ask for the current fee before your appointment
Turkish ID card	In person only, by appointment; not handled by mail	\$10.20 in cash; a replacement for a lost card is \$15.50
Birth registration	In person or by mail	Sending the documents to Türkiye costs \$35; the ID card is \$5 within 60 days of the birth and \$10.20 after that
Marriage registration	In person or by mail	Confirm the fee and the documents before you apply
Death registration	In person or by mail	Free
Powers of attorney and notarial acts	Only at the consulate building	Ask for the current fee

THE SERVICES YOU CAN HANDLE BY MAIL SAVE YOU A DAY FROM HERE

The three lines we set in bold mean something particular in this guide: **birth, marriage and death registration can also be done by mail**. Over 90 miles, handling them that way can remove a whole day of travel. Ask by phone first which documents are accepted by mail and how to send them, because making a second trip over a missing paper is expensive from here. The same logic applies to the military service registration: it can be completed through e-Devlet, and that is the only step that does not require a trip to Boston. Save the journey for what genuinely has to be done in person: the passport, the ID card, powers of attorney and the paid exemption application.

For a Turkish ID card: adults apply in person; a 15 to 18 year old comes with a parent; for a child under 15, the parent applies. For a family with children that means the whole household travels on the same day, so try to get the appointments into the same morning. Bring one 2x2 inch biometric photo taken within the last six months and the old ID card (without it, a passport, driver's license or marriage book works). Payment is cash; the new card is mailed to the consulate and you can ask for a temporary ID if you need identification sooner. Ask at the appointment whether collecting the card needs a second trip to Boston. Of the amounts above, only the ID card, birth registration and death registration lines come from the consulate's own 2026 information notes; the fees for passports, powers of attorney, notarial acts and criminal record extracts are not published on those pages. Do not budget from another mission's price list; confirm on the [consulate contact page](#) or by phone.

Registering a child with the Turkish civil registry

Conditions: at least one parent is a Turkish citizen, the child is under 18, and the birth took place in the six-state district. West Springfield is inside it. Payment is cash or a money order; personal and company checks are not accepted. **There is a critical detail here:** because there is no hospital in town, a baby is normally born in Springfield and the birth is recorded by the Springfield City Clerk. Call 413-263-3012 before you go and ask which office holds the record, so you do not cross the river for nothing.

DOCUMENT	NOTE
☐ A certified copy of the birth certificate plus one photocopy	The short "birth record" is not accepted. Springfield City Clerk (City Hall Room 123, 36 Court Street, Springfield MA 01103): a certified copy is \$20, in person or by mail, and personal checks are not accepted. West Springfield Town Clerk (26 Central Street, 413-263-3012): \$10 per copy for births and deaths that occurred in the town and marriages it licensed, ready the following business day; the town page says most records are public but does not say which ID is required, so bring your passport. For a birth elsewhere in the state, the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, 150 Mt. Vernon Street, 1st Floor, Dorchester MA 02125, (617) 740-2600
☐ Parents' identity documents	A Turkish ID card or passport
☐ Marriage certificate	If you are married; the marriage has to be registered first
☐ Translation	If a foreign parent's birth certificate is in neither English nor Turkish
☐ Dual citizenship form	Filled in at the appointment

Order at least two certified copies: one stays with the U.S. passport application and one goes for the apostille and the consulate. Because this can be done by mail, getting the documents complete in one go is a real saving for someone travelling from here. The hospital does not order the certificate for you. A child born in the United States is a U.S. citizen at birth.

Marriage registration and the town marriage license

Register a marriage performed in the United States with the Consulate General, and that can also be done by mail. The license comes from the town's own Town Clerk: 26 Central Street, West Springfield MA 01089, 413-263-3012, weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The town page says in capital letters that marriage licenses are currently issued **by appointment only** and that both parties have to apply together in person; we could not find whether the appointment can be booked online, so call. The fee is **\$30**, in cash or by a check payable to the Town of West Springfield: Cambridge and Boston charge \$50, so this is the cheapest license page in the series. In the town's words, the license is valid 60 days from the filing date and can be released to the couple after a three-day waiting period; the ceremony has to take place in Massachusetts and the three-day wait can be waived through the court (total fees \$195). For identity, the page asks for a valid photo ID to verify age (marriage under 18 is prohibited) but does not list the IDs it accepts; under state guidance a passport works as proof of age, so bring your driver's license too if you have one. The information to bring: both parties' full names, the surname to be used after the marriage, places of birth, parents' full names, Social

Security numbers, the date and place of the ceremony and the details of the person officiating. A certified copy of the certificate is \$10.

AN IMPORTANT WARNING FOR PEOPLE WITHOUT AN SSN

The town's marriage license page lists **Social Security numbers among the information asked for and offers no alternative for someone who does not have one**. State guidance says a person without a number writes down on the form why they do not have one, but we could not confirm that the West Springfield clerk accepts that statement. So we have one piece of advice: call **413-263-3012** before you book and ask what to do without an SSN, and note who you spoke to at the office. Turning up for an appointment and going home empty-handed means two trips into the town center from here. The good news: Massachusetts has no residency requirement, so you can get the license from any city or town clerk in the state; if it cannot be resolved here, you can speak to another clerk.

Apostille: the Springfield office can save you a day

Apostilles in Massachusetts come from the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Commissions Section: One Ashburton Place, Room 1719, Boston MA 02108, and the fee is **\$6 per document**, among the lowest of any state. The good news is that the Commonwealth keeps a **western regional office in Springfield**, so you may be able to avoid the 90-mile trip to Boston. But we could not verify that office's address or turnaround: the official page states that regional offices exist without giving addresses. **Make this call first: 617-727-2836** and ask for the Western Office's address, hours and turnaround. If there is a counter across the river, that turns a day-long trip to Boston into a ten-minute errand. There is also a mail route: processing takes 2 to 3 weeks after the package arrives, with a check payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and a prepaid return envelope, and no credit cards; for anything not urgent that is the most sensible route from here. At the Boston counter up to 3 documents are processed on the spot and 4 or more are collected after 3 p.m. the next business day. The signature has to be original and belong to a Massachusetts official: a notary, a justice of the peace, a city or town clerk, a court clerk or the Registrar of Vital Records. That list **includes the West Springfield Town Clerk**, so a business certificate or a clerk-signed vital record from 26 Central Street needs no extra round. **With the Connecticut line close by, do not skip this distinction:** Massachusetts does not apostille a document issued in Hartford; that document is apostilled in Connecticut. Federal documents such as an FBI record or a naturalization certificate get their apostille from the U.S. Department of State's Office of Authentications: Form DS-4194, \$20 per document, and that runs by mail, so it needs no journey at all. Türkiye has been a party to the Hague Apostille Convention since 1985, so no further consular legalization is needed; seen from here that is a real convenience, because you do not have to visit the consulate in Boston for an apostille.

Military service (askerlik)

- **Registration (yoklama):** men born in 2007 and anyone without a deferral must register through the consulate or e-Devlet by **December 31, 2026**. **If you can do the registration online, do it:** it is the only step that does not require a trip to Boston from here.
- **Paid exemption from abroad (July 1 to December 31, 2026):** the equivalent in foreign currency of 472,653.60 Turkish lira, collected in dollars at the central bank rate on the day of payment. Whether the

consulate adds a transfer fee is not stated on its published pages, so ask before your appointment. The amount changes on January 1, 2027.

- **Conditions:** working in the United States with a residence or work permit, at least 3 years (1,095 days) of work abroad excluding time spent in Türkiye, completing the ministry's distance training at dovizle.msb.gov.tr, and living in the consular district. West Springfield is inside it. **The application is in person and by appointment only**, so this is one of the errands that does require the trip to Boston.
- **Dual citizens:** people born in the United States, or who arrived as minors and naturalized, can defer until the end of age 35 once the U.S. citizenship is recorded with the Turkish civil registry; no work requirement applies, three years abroad is enough.
- **Students:** deferrals go through the Education Attaché, boston_ozel@meb.gov.tr. Handling it by email makes particular sense here, because a trip to Boston for every question costs a day.
- **Build the calendar early:** December appointments fill early and someone travelling from here faces two obstacles, the queue and the road. With snow to factor in during December, try to get the appointment by the middle of November and have a backup date.

Time difference and two airports

Türkiye stays on UTC+3 all year while West Springfield is on Eastern Time with daylight saving. The difference is 7 hours until November 1, 2026 and 8 hours from November 1, 2026 to March 14, 2027. At 9 a.m. here it is 4 p.m. in Istanbul now and 5 p.m. after November 1, so office hours in Türkiye fall between 2 and 9 a.m. here. **Two airports, two separate calculations:** the region's own airport is **Bradley International** in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, not Logan. The nonstop to Istanbul, however, leaves from **Boston Logan**: Turkish Airlines appears on Massport's nonstop international list and the flight is about 11 hours; Massport and the airline publish different frequencies, so check days and times with [the airline](#). Flying with a connection from Bradley is of course possible, but do not buy a ticket without comparing price and duration for both airports. Logan is about 90 miles by car and over two hours on the Mass Pike, so allow for long-stay parking. Without a car, take the Peter Pan bus from Springfield Union Station to South Station (about 2 hours 5 minutes) and then the Silver Line SL1 to Logan; the SL1 is free on the way back. Logan Express buses run from Back Bay, Braintree, Danvers, Framingham and Woburn, there is no route from here, and even Framingham, the westernmost stop, is already most of the way there. Getting to Bradley without a car has three legs: a free PVTA bus to Union Station, a train to Windsor Locks, then CTtransit route 24 (every 20 minutes on weekdays between 4:10 a.m. and 12:30 a.m.). Allow plenty of time for baggage on an international flight.

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

The consulate handles Türkiye-related business. Your U.S. visa, green card or citizenship applications belong to USCIS and the U.S. Department of State, and your USCIS office is Lawrence rather than Boston. Before you travel to Türkiye with a pending green card application, check your advance parole status: leaving without it can be treated as abandoning the application, with limited exceptions such as H-1B and L-1. For green card holders, long absences can also create problems in keeping the card. If there is an error in your I-94 record on the way back, the only confirmed correction office in Massachusetts is at Terminal E of Logan Airport, 90 miles from here.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN WEST SPRINGFIELD

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in West Springfield 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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