

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · WISCONSIN

Turkish Consulate, Apostilles and Document Work from Wisconsin 2026

The mission is in Chicago and in-person intake runs two and a half hours a day. Apostilles are handled downtown in the capital, ten dollars per document, and the window stays open until 6 p.m. on Thursdays.

SHORT ANSWER

Wisconsin falls in the consular district of the **Turkish Consulate General in Chicago**, and we verified that from a list rather than an assumption: the mission's own page counts its district as **13 Midwestern states**. The distance is real: about **240 kilometers** from the capital, two and a half to three hours by car. And the most important planning detail: **in-person intake by appointment runs only from 9:30 a.m. to noon**, two and a half hours a day. On apostilles the state stands out in this series: the work is done by the **Secretary of State**, downtown in the capital, the fee is **\$10** per document standard and **\$35** expedited, and the window is open **until 6 p.m. on Thursdays**.

The mission

ITEM	INFORMATION
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
Email	consulate.chicago@mfa.gov.tr
Consular call center, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week	+90 312 292 29 29
Office hours	Weekdays 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
In-person intake by appointment	9:30 a.m. to noon only
Applications by phone	2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The consular district: thirteen states, one mission

According to the mission's own list, the district covers these states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. So a single mission serves the whole Midwest, and over that distance an appointment slot is genuinely valuable. **There is no mission in Wisconsin**; the honorary consulate general in the Midwest is in Detroit, which means there is no Turkish authority inside the state where you can get your business done. What runs from Chicago: passport renewal and first passports; civil registry extracts and birth, marriage and death notifications; powers of attorney and signature certifications; military service registration, deferral and paid service transactions; notifying the Turkish civil registry of U.S. citizenship, the blue card and renunciation; a preliminary visa application for non-citizens of Türkiye; and matters involving a Turkish driver license. Nearly all of it is handled **by appointment**; cancel the moment you know you cannot make it. **We do not print a document list in this guide**: the mission's consular services sub-pages did not open during this round and we could not verify which transaction requires which documents. Traveling to Chicago with the wrong documents would be the most expensive advice this guide could give you; confirm the list **from the appointment menu and the call center**.

THREE ROUTES TO TRY BEFORE YOU SET OUT

- **The national e-government portal.** Civil registry, address and some document transactions can be done remotely; check there first which transaction is handled remotely: turkiye.gov.tr.
- **The call center, +90 312 292 29 29.** Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and the fastest way to learn which documents are needed. The time difference is why this matters: Türkiye is currently **8 hours ahead**, and **when U.S. daylight saving time ends on November 1, 2026 the gap becomes 9 hours**.
- **Courier or mail.** Some transactions run on document submission; ask the call center which ones are accepted and do not send documents on your own initiative.
- **The attache offices in the same building are a real convenience:** the Education Attache (extension 811, chicago@meb.gov.tr), the Commercial Attache (extensions 888 and 812) and the Press Attache (extension 835) are all at the same address. For a child's school registration and equivalence work in Türkiye you do not have to travel to a different city; it can be added to the same appointment day.
- **On military service we deliberately print no figures.** The requirements and fees for paid and foreign-currency military service change from period to period and we **could not verify** the current version from an official source this round. Amounts circulating on forums usually belong to earlier periods, and there are steps with no way back once payment is made; ask the call center what applies to your own birth year and status.

Apostilles: at the Secretary of State, downtown in the capital

ITEM	INFORMATION
Unit	The Secretary of State's authentication desk
Window	Room B41W, State Capitol, Madison, WI 53703
Window hours	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Thursday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

ITEM	INFORMATION
Standard service	\$10 per document, estimated 7 to 10 business days and up
Expedited service	\$25 on top of the standard fee, so \$35 per document, 1 to 3 business days
Mailing address	P.O. Box 7848, Madison, WI 53707-7848
Courier address	State Capitol Mailroom, 17 W. Main Street, Madison, WI 53703-3960. DHL deliveries are not accepted
Contact	Apostilles@wisconsin.gov · (608) 266-8888

- **There are two figures for the turnaround:** one page gives the standard service as 7 to 10 business days and up, while the question and answer page gives 7 to 20 business days. Do not leave a document bound for Türkiye to the last week.
- **The fee is not per document but per certificate issued:** for a multi-page document that receives a single certificate you pay once. So what matters is not how many pages but **how many certificates** are required.
- **There is online ordering but it requires an account:** you sign in with the state's own identity verification system and pay there, and the document is mailed in a prepaid envelope or picked up. Checks and money orders are made out to the Secretary of State.
- **Three things to avoid a rejection:** the notary or the official who issued the document **has to be from this state**, and a document executed in another state cannot be processed at this office; the document has to be **an original, a certified copy or a properly notarized photocopy**; and **the state does not apostille a federal document**, so items such as a certificate of naturalization or a U.S. passport go to the U.S. State Department's authentications office instead.

A CONFLICT ABOUT PAYMENT, AND WHO TO ASK

- The Secretary of State's **English order form** says cash, check, money order, a mobile payment and credit cards (one brand excepted) are accepted, while the same office's **Spanish order form says credit cards are not accepted**.
- Both forms belong to the same office and they do not say the same thing. That is why this guide does not write a one-sided sentence saying credit cards are accepted.
- **Before you seal the envelope or go to the window**, write to Apostilles@wisconsin.gov or call **(608) 266-8888** and ask which payment method is accepted that day.

Apostilling a vital record: two offices, two fees, at the same time

If a birth, death or marriage certificate needs an apostille, the route the Secretary of State describes is this: you send **to two offices at the same time**. The document request and its fee to the vital records office, and the apostille order and its fee plus an addressed stamped envelope to the Secretary of State. So the cost of an apostilled birth certificate is **the sum of two items**. For the certificate itself, know two things. First, **the state vital records office has no counter service**; the channels are mail (State Vital Records Office, PO Box 309, Madison, WI 53701-0309, processing up to 2 weeks plus mail time), the state's contracted online ordering service (**which charges an extra fee**, about 5 business days), phone **(877-885-2981)**, or the register of deeds in any of the **72 counties**. In the capital the place to go in person is the county register of

deeds: 210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Room 110, weekdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Not every record is held everywhere**, and we **found no** rule explaining which years sit in which office; if you are looking for an older record, call first. Second, the fees: **a search plus the first copy is \$20, each additional copy of the same record is \$3**, expedited service adds \$20, and if you do not know the record precisely, a search of the older single-year indexes is **\$20 per five-year period and is not refunded**. Because additional copies really are cheap, **sit down and work out how many certified copies you will need** for school enrollment, consular work, apostilles and insurance, **and order them all at once**; every new order charges that \$20 again.

The clearest good news for a Turkish reader: a foreign passport is on the accepted ID list

The identification accepted for a vital record request: a state driver license or ID card; a photo ID issued by a U.S. government agency; **a U.S. or foreign passport**; a tribal or military ID. If you have no photo ID, sending **two documents** from the list is also possible. And one firm rule: **expired cards and documents are not accepted**. So **a valid Turkish passport is accepted identification for this task**, but if your passport has expired the request will not be processed; check the date before you order. Do not skip one more distinction: a **certified copy** is issued only to those who fall within the statutory definition of "direct and tangible interest" and it is what official business requires; an **uncertified copy** is for information only and cannot be used for identification or legal purposes. A **Spanish** version of the application form is published; **there is no Turkish version**.

The marriage license: the figures are there, the document list is not

ITEM	RULE
Who issues the license	The county clerk. The post-ceremony paperwork is filed by the county register of deeds
Application procedure	By appointment and by remote video interview only. Both applicants have to attend the interview
Fee	\$150 plus a service charge, the highest figure we have seen in this series. Payment is made at the time of the appointment and is not refunded
Waiting period	3 days. The license is issued on the 4th calendar day after the application date
Waiver of the waiting period	For an additional \$25 , which allows the license to be used on the day of application
Validity and scope	The license is valid for 60 days and authorizes the ceremony in any county in the state
What has to be settled before you apply	The officiant, the date and time, and the location. No application is taken until these are set
Finding an appointment	The calendar fills quickly between May and October; the clerk recommends booking 2 to 3 weeks ahead
After the ceremony	The officiant must file the license within 3 business days with any register of deeds in the state
Certified marriage certificate	Search plus first copy \$20 , each additional copy \$3

TWO THINGS WE STATE HONESTLY IN THIS SECTION

- **A source caveat:** the county clerk's and the county register of deeds' own domains and the state statute site **did not open by any route** during the research, and the backup archive was closed too. Every figure above was read **indirectly** from those official domains, meaning we did not open the pages themselves; for that reason we relay the table as **likely rather than certain**. We also do not quote statutory language.
- **The clerk's own pages conflict on the calendar and we print it:** one page says the booking system opens appointments **45 days** out, another says the license may be obtained **60 days** in advance. These are not the same thing: if your wedding is 55 days away, by one page that date may not yet be open, by the other the license can be issued. **We take no side**, we print both figures.
- **We could not verify the document list and we say so as it stands.** The unanswered questions, one by one: is a certified birth certificate required; is a foreign birth certificate accepted, and does it need a translation; is a foreign passport sufficient identification on its own; **is a Social Security number requested**; where does a non-resident couple apply; what is the minimum age; are witnesses required, and how many; who may officiate. We write no guessed answer to any of them. **We do not say "there is none," we say "we could not find it."**
- **What to do:** before you book, call the clerk at **(608) 266-4121** and go through this list item by item, then **repeat the same questions by email and ask for a written answer**, and take the written answer to the appointment. We say this specifically because the application is done by remote video interview and the fee is not refunded: breaking off halfway through the interview over a document you do not have means **losing \$150 and weeks**. If you hold documents from Türkiye, ask about **translation and authentication** on the same call.

How to sequence it

For documents bound for Türkiye the order is: **obtain the document, have it notarized if required, get the apostille, have a sworn translation done if required, then use it**. Skip a step and send the document to Türkiye and going back to the start costs weeks, because **the apostille authenticates the original, it does not translate the content**. For Turkish documents you will use in the United States for your immigration case the direction reverses: those are **apostilled in Türkiye** and submitted here with a **certified English translation**. The trick to handling consular work from this state is planning: try to finish more than one task per trip, book appointments on the same day or on consecutive days, and confirm the document list for each task with the call center item by item. If your child was born here you will need an **apostilled original** of the birth certificate; finish that **before** the Chicago appointment, because the apostille is obtained in the capital and mail time is required. There is an advantage too: the passport agency, the Turkish Consulate General and the region's largest international airport are all in Chicago, so tasks can be combined. But accept one limit on the flight side up front: **there is no nonstop international flight from the capital's airport**, and therefore no nonstop service to Istanbul, and **we could not verify which airline flies between Chicago and Istanbul** this round, so we print no airline name. The Secretary of State's apostille page: sos.wi.gov/Pages/Apostilles/howto.aspx.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN WISCONSIN

Have a question about your immigration status?

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