



AMERICAN CONNECTIONS

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

La Paz, Bolivia

JUNE 2012

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- Grandparent Scams
- 2012 Elections Update
- Notarizations, Authentications and Emergency Passports
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- Upcoming Holidays

Contact Us

Phones:

Regular Hours 216-8246

After Hours (Emergencies Only) 715-33713

E-mail:

consularlapaz@state.gov

Web Page:

<http://bolivia.usembassy.gov>

Hours of Operation

LA PAZ

Mondays through

Thursdays

08:00 to 12:00

13:00 to 15:00

COCHABAMBA

Mondays, Tuesdays and

Thursdays

8:30 to 12:30

Wednesdays

13:30 to 17:30

SANTA CRUZ

Mondays through

Thursdays

9:00 to 12:00

(except U.S. and local holidays)



U.S. EMBASSY REPRESENTED AT GRAN PODER FESTIVAL

On Saturday, June 2nd, La Paz celebrated la Fiesta del Señor Jesús del Gran Poder. The festival dates back to the 1930s when it began as a small procession to celebrate Jesus Christ as the second member of the Trinity. Over the years, the event has developed into an internationally renowned celebration of folkloric and traditional dance. Thousands of dancers participated with elaborate dresses and costumes.

The U.S. Embassy in La Paz was well represented at the festivities. Employees of the Embassy, including the Charge d' Affaires, John S. Creamer, and Mrs. Liza Creamer organized and performed the traditional dance of La Morenada at the event.

Charge d'Affaires John S. Creamer and Mrs. Liza Creamer at Gran Poder



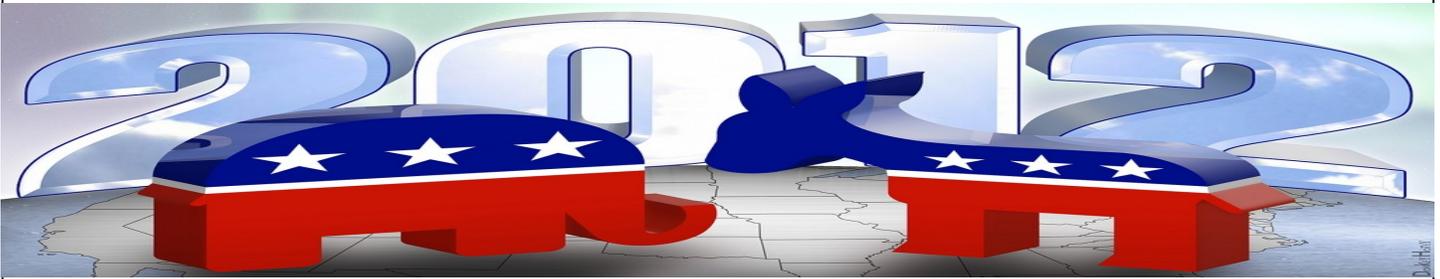
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SCAM ALERT

Over the past year the Department of State has become aware of an increasingly prevalent fraud activity known as the "grandparent scam". In these cases, the perpetrator calls a grandparent or other relative pretending to be their grandchild, niece, or nephew. The caller will then explain that they have been arrested or involved in an accident and that they need money for bail. The caller will request that money be immediately sent via Western Union to a friend's name because the caller has allegedly lost all their identity documents.

In order to avoid becoming a victim of this scam, you should contact the parents and/or close friends and family of the caller and attempt to verify the caller's story. In most cases, the real grandchild is safe at home, school, or work. As a matter of prevention, always safeguard your personal information. Be cautious about what information you post on the internet and social network sites. For more information on international financial scams, visit travel.state.gov and see the International Travel Information section.



2012 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION UPDATE



The 2012 presidential election campaigns are in full swing. On Tuesday, May 29, the Texas primary election was conducted. Governor Mitt Romney won enough delegates in the state to propel him past the 1,144 delegates necessary to secure the Republican Party's nomination. Previous major candidates for the nomination Rick Santorum, Newt Gingrich, Rick Perry and Herman Cain have dropped out of the race. Ron Paul has announced he would stop actively campaigning. Following the Republican National Convention, which will take place August 27-30 in Tampa Bay, Florida, Governor Romney's nomination will be official.

As the incumbent, President Barack Obama will be the nominee for the Democratic Party. The Democratic National Convention will take place September 3-6 in Charlotte, North Carolina.



The general election will take place on November 6, 2012. For information regarding the candidates' respective campaigns visit www.barackobama.com and www.mittromney.com.

The U.S. Embassy in Bolivia encourages all eligible U.S. citizens residing abroad to register to vote and to vote absentee. See below for information on registering and voting abroad.

Participate in the 2012 Federal Elections!

- * All U.S. citizens who want to vote in the 2012 election need to go to www.FVAP.gov to complete and submit a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) if they haven't yet done so this calendar year. (Having registered to vote absentee in previous years)
- * Everyone should request electronic delivery of his/her ballot and include an email address on his/her application.
- * Almost all adult U.S. citizens overseas can vote in 2012, even if they have never lived in the U.S. or have been away from the U.S. for a long time.



SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICES

Notarizations and Authentications

The Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Bolivia is able to provide limited notary and authentication services:

What we CAN do:

- * Notarize documents for use in the United States. (i.e. mortgage and other bank loan documents, contracts to be executed in the U.S., powers of attorney)
- * Authenticate some Bolivian records for use in the United States. (i.e. birth, marriage, and death certificates)
Note: For authentication, the document(s) must first be legalized by the Bolivian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

What we CANNOT do:

- * Notarize or authenticate documents to be used outside of the United States.
- * Notarize or authenticate documents issued in the United States for use in Bolivia. (i.e. U.S. birth, marriage, and death certificates. These documents should be authenticated in the U.S. by the Bolivian consul).
- * Notarize or authenticate academic credentials, transcripts or degrees.
- * Notarize or authenticate copies of documents.

How to obtain services:

- * Make an appointment at bolivia.usembassy.gov/service.html (no walk-ins accepted).
- * Bring a valid photo ID to the appointment (passport, driver's license, Bolivian identity card). If you will be signing any document, ensure that the ID contains a signature.
- * Bring your own witnesses if necessary. Consular officials cannot act as witnesses.

Fees:

- * US \$50 for each notarization, authentication, or certification.

Emergency Passports

The Consular Section is able to issue limited emergency passports. These passports are typically limited in validity to three months. The consular officer will determine whether an individual qualifies to receive an emergency passport.

Examples of emergencies:

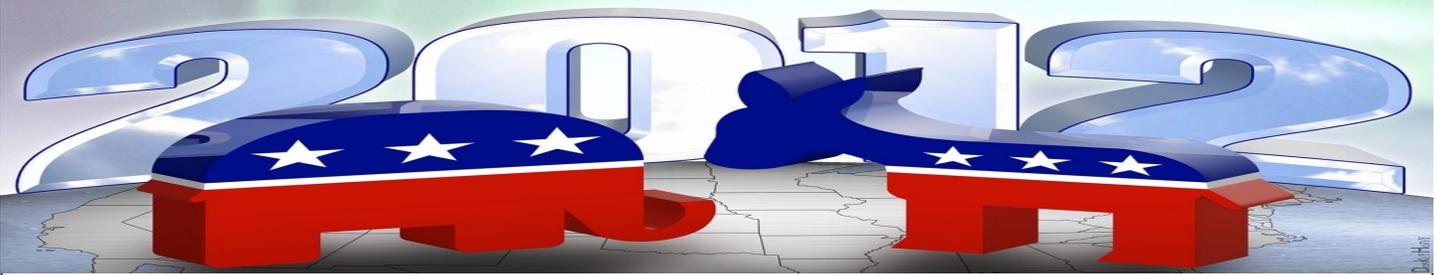
- * Applicant needs to travel to the U.S. to receive urgent medical treatment.
- * Applicant needs to travel to the U.S. to attend to a severely ill family member or death of a family member.
- * A passport was lost or stolen while traveling abroad.

Lack of proper planning (i.e. checking passport validity) before an anticipated trip to the U.S. does NOT constitute an emergency.

See bolivia.usembassy.gov/service.html and navigate to the "Our Services to U.S. Citizens" section for information on how to obtain an emergency passport.

Note: Many countries require a passport validity of at least 6 months in order to admit an individual. Likewise, many countries that participate in the visa waiver program will only waive the visa requirement when the individual presents a regular full-validity U.S. passport. It is not recommended that U.S. citizens travel to other countries with only a limited emergency passport.

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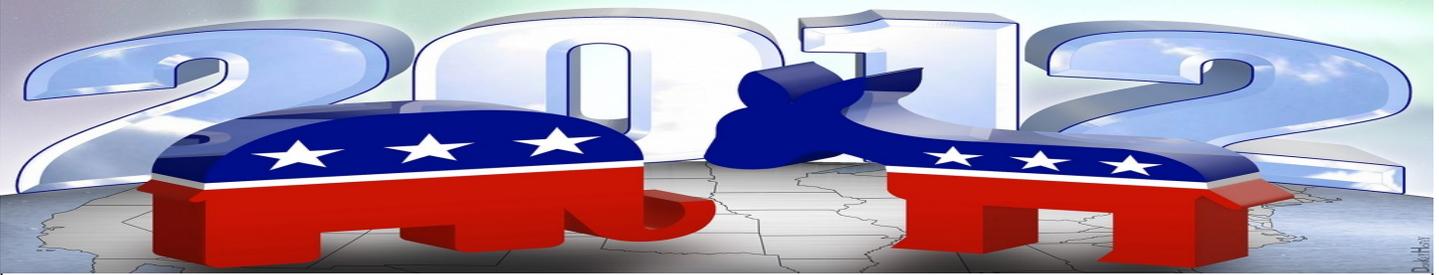
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CONSULAR TOWN HALL MEETINGS A SUCCESS



We would like to thank all American citizens who attended the Town Hall Meetings on American Citizens Services, including Voter Registration and Absentee Voting, in Sucre, Tarija and Cochabamba. We appreciate your active participation and for taking the time to meet with the consular officer and your fellow Americans.

To ensure that you receive our messages and invites, please remember to enroll your visit or residence in Bolivia at <http://bolivia.usembassy.gov/service.html>

U.S. Citizen Services | Embassy of the United States La Paz, Bolivia - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Department of St

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Our Services to U.S. Citizens

Embassy Notices

Information on Translators, Lawyers and Physicians

Voting Overseas

Living in Bolivia

U.S. CITIZEN SERVICES

The American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit of the Consular Section provides a wide range of services to American citizens visiting or residing in Bolivia.

So we can better serve you, we encourage you to enroll with the Embassy through the State Department website if you will be travelling or living in Bolivia. In case of emergency, call (591-2) 216-8246 from 8am to 5pm or (591) 715-33713 after hours.

Please note that questions related to visa cases are not considered emergencies and will not be answered over the phone. If you have a questions related to a visa matter, please send an email to consularlapaz@state.gov.

Individuals who require any non-emergency service, including passport renewals (and passport extra pages), birth registrations, notarial services, federal benefits and general inquiries, must first make an appointment before coming to the Embassy or to any of the Consular Agencies. Only customers with appointments will be

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APPOINTMENTS

Appointments La Paz Make an appointment for La Paz

Appointments Cochabamba Make an appointment for Cochabamba

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LIST OF UPCOMING HOLIDAYS TO BE OBSERVED BY THE U.S. MISSION

The U.S. Embassy and the Consular Agencies will be closed on the following U.S. and Bolivian holidays:

Winter Solstice (Aymara New Year)	June 21
Independence Day (U.S)	July 4
La Paz Day (La Paz Only)	July 16
Independence Day (Bolivia)	August 6
Labor Day	September 3
Cochabamaba Day (Cochabamba Only)	September 14
Santa Cruz Day (Santa Cruz Only)	September 24

