



U.S. EMBASSY PRAGUE AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES NEWSLETTER

Trziste 15, 118 01 Prague 1

April/May 2014

We Moved!

(But just across the hall.)

If you've visited us in the past, you are used to turning left at the top of the stairs. Not anymore!

ALL consular services now take place in the lower part of the Consular wing. Please use the kiosk in the waiting room, and we will call your number. Our hours will remain the same. Please be advised that all routine services require an appointment, which you can schedule online [here](#).

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Greetings from ACS

As you consider holiday plans this summer, please make sure you have your passports in order! New passports take 1-2 weeks to process, and extra visa pages can be added the same day.

Please take note of our new location in the lower wing of the Consular Section.

Best regards,

Charles Jess
Consul General

Recent Travel Alerts and Warnings



Travel Alerts (Short-Term) that pose a risk to U.S. citizens abroad:

- ◆ [Egypt](#) 03/18/2014
- ◆ [Russia](#) 03/14/2014
- ◆ [Thailand](#) 02/14/2014

Travel Warnings (Long-Term) that pose a risk to U.S. citizens abroad:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ◆ Niger 03/27/2014 | ◆ Afghanistan 02/20/2014 |
| ◆ Ukraine 03/21/2014 | ◆ Saudi Arabia 02/11/2014 |
| ◆ Mali 03/21/2014 | ◆ Somalia 02/07/2014 |
| ◆ Mauritania 03/12/2014 | ◆ Algeria 02/06/2014 |
| ◆ Haiti 03/12/2014 | ◆ Pakistan 02/05/2014 |
| ◆ Iraq 03/06/2014 | ◆ Israel, the West Bank and Gaza 02/03/2014 |



Lottery Scams: Like other "too good to be true" scams, lottery scams offer the victim great wealth in exchange for paying taxes and other processing fees up-front. In lottery scams, scammers generally send an e-mail, fax, or letter to potential victims announcing that they have won a foreign lottery. The "winner" need only provide personal bank account information and pay a few fees up-front to collect his or her substantial winnings.

For more information on common lottery scams, please click [here](#).

The New Czech Citizenship Law and You

As of January 1st, 2014, the Czech Republic allows dual citizenship for Czech citizens. Applicants do NOT need to renounce any other citizenships, including American, but will be required to pass an exam that demonstrates knowledge of the constitutional system of the Czech Republic, as well as basic knowledge of Czech cultural, social, geographical and historical facts. Applicants will also be required to pass a language exam.

Your American citizenship will NOT be affected if you choose to apply for Czech citizenship as well.

In addition, the Czech Republic now recognizes the transmission of citizenship automatically by the father to his child. This can be done several ways:

- Birth to a Czech father and mother who is either an EU citizen or in correct legal status at the time of birth. The father **must** declare his parentage.
- Court order determining paternity.
- Confirmation of paternity through DNA testing.

For more information, please consult the Czech Ministry of Interior.

Embassy Holiday Closures

U.S. Embassy Prague will be closed on the following days in recognition of Czech and U.S. holidays:

Monday, April 21, 2014 - Easter Monday (Czech Holiday)

Thursday, May 1, 2014 - Labor Day (Czech Holiday)

Thursday, May 8, 2014 - Liberation Day (Czech Holiday)

Thursday, May 26, 2014 - Memorial Day (U.S. Holiday)

U.S. Visas for Same-Sex Spouses: FAQ

Q: How does the Supreme Court's Windsor v. United States decision impact immigration law?

A: The Supreme Court has found section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional. Effective immediately, U.S. embassies and consulates will adjudicate visa applications that are based on a same-sex marriage in the same way that we adjudicate applications for opposite gender spouses. This means that the same sex spouse of a visa applicant coming to the U.S. for any purpose – including work, study, international exchange or as a legal immigrant – will be eligible for a derivative visa. Likewise, stepchildren acquired through same sex marriages can also qualify as beneficiaries or for derivative status.

Q: Do we have to live or intend to live in a state in which same sex marriage is legal in order to qualify for an immigrant or nonimmigrant visa?

A: No. If your marriage is valid in the jurisdiction (U.S. state or foreign country) where it took place, it is valid for immigration purposes.

Q: I am in a civil union or domestic partnership; will this be treated the same as a marriage?

A: At this time, only a relationship legally considered to be a marriage in the jurisdiction where it took place establishes eligibility as a spouse for immigration purposes.

Q: I am a U.S. citizen who is engaged to be married to a foreign national of the same sex. We cannot marry in my fiancé's country. What are our options? Can we apply for a fiancé K visa?

A: You may file a Form I-129F and apply for a fiancé(e) (K) visa. As long as all other immigration requirements are met, a same-sex engagement may allow your fiancé to enter the United States for the purpose of marriage.

More information can be found on the [USCIS website](#).

Need a criminal record check for your Czech visa or Živnostenský list?

Documentation on criminal record checks are provided by the Embassy through an affidavit signed by the U.S. citizen and notarized at the Embassy by a Consular Officer. Under certain circumstances, this sworn statement affirming that you have no criminal history is accepted by the Czech Government. Please confirm this requirement with the appropriate Czech Government office related to your needs. The fee for this notarial service is \$50.00 USD.

Appointments for routine services such as non-emergency passports, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, extra passport pages, and **notarial services** are available Monday through Friday between the hours of 0830 AM and 1130 AM. Appointments may be made online by visiting our reservation system at <https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=PRG&appcode=1>

Please visit our website for additional information: <http://prague.usembassy.gov>.



Get the free Smart Traveler App!

The State Department's *Smart Traveler* app is now available for free:

--In the iTunes store at <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smart-traveler/id442693988?mt=8>,

--From the Google Play Store at http://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.state.apps.smartravel&feature=search_result#?t=W10

The app was first launched in June 2011. It is the official State Department application for U.S. travelers. The app invites you to see the world with easy access to frequently updated official country information, travel alerts, travel warnings, maps, U.S. embassy locations, and more.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ◆ “Know Before You Go” allows you to get travel warnings on that specific country or region, a map, safety & security information, and more.
- ◆ The "U.S. Relations Fact Sheet" gives you information on U.S. relations with that country.
- ◆ "U.S. Embassies/Consulates" is your one-stop shop for a complete list of all U.S. embassies & consulates overseas.
- ◆ Select “Smart Traveler Enrollment” from the bottom of the e-itineraries screen to enroll in this free program so that the State Department can better assist you in an emergency.

Stay Connected with
U.S. Embassy Prague



2014 is an election year! How to vote from the Czech Republic

Your vote counts! Did you know that many recent U.S. elections have been decided by a margin smaller than the number of ballots cast by military and overseas voters. All states are required to count every absentee ballot as long as it is valid and reaches local election officials by the absentee ballot receipt deadline.

Follow a few simple steps to make sure that you can vote in the 2014 U.S. elections:

1. **Register!** To vote in any federal election this cycle, you must complete a new [Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\)](#). You can complete the FPCA **online** at [FVAP.gov](#). The online voting assistant will ask you questions specific to your state. It will tell you if your state allows the [FPCA](#) to be returned electronically or if you must submit a paper copy with original signature.
2. **Get your ballot!** States are required to send out ballots at least 45 days before a regularly scheduled federal election. You can also request to have your ballot delivered electronically! Be sure to include your email address on your FPCA to take advantage of the electronic ballot delivery option. You can now also confirm your [registration and ballot delivery online](#) for most states.
3. **Research!** Check out the [FVAP links page](#) for helpful resources that will aid your research of candidates and issues. Non-partisan information about candidates, their voting records, and their positions on issues are widely available and easy to obtain via numerous websites such as [Project Smart Voter](#).
4. **Vote!** You can submit your ballot in person to the Consular Section during normal operating hours, and we will send it to your state free of charge. You can also mail it yourself by international carrier, at your expense.

For questions on voting, please do not hesitate to contact us at VotePrague@state.gov.

Contact American Citizen Services

ACSPRG@state.gov

Open 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM Monday through Friday

By appointment only (except for emergencies)

<http://prague.usembassy.gov>

420-257-022-000