



The Sphinx

An American Citizen Services Quarterly Newsletter

U.S. Embassy Cairo

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متوفر أيضا باللغة العربية

American Citizen Services (ACS)

8 Kamal El Din Salah Street
Garden City, Cairo

(20-2) 2797-3300 (24 hour number
for emergencies* only)

*ACS emergencies include: arrests,
hospitalizations, welfare and
whereabouts requests, child custody
cases, repatriations, lost and stolen
passports, and deaths.

For all other services, including
passport renewals, consular reports
of birth abroad, and notarial
requests, please make an
appointment using our website.

For questions, send an email to:
ConsularCairoACS@State.gov

U.S. Embassy Cairo is not a Federal
benefits post. For all Federal benefits
questions please contact U.S. Consulate
Jerusalem directly at:
FBU.Jerusalem@SSA.gov



Egyptian Emergency Services Numbers

122 Police and Fire Department

123 Ambulance

140 National Phone Directory

16000 Child Emergency Line

Independence Day Celebrations!

U.S. Mission Egypt honored the Fourth of July early this year

*On June 9, the U.S.
Embassy in Cairo
hosted its annual
Independence Day
reception, with guests
from across Egyptian
society and
entertainment from a
U.S. Air Force band.*



*In his remarks,
Ambassador Beecroft*

*honored the history
and continuing evolution of American democracy. "With each
generation," he said, "the United States has grown stronger
because of the extraordinary people from every part of the
world who come to our shores. As a nation of immigrants, the
face of America reflects every race, culture, and creed. So when
Americans celebrate our Independence Day, we celebrate with
everyone - our great Egyptian friends here...and our friends
around the world."*

*The U.S. Consulate General in Alexandria was proud to host its
celebration on June 14, which featured a local jazz band and
finale of fireworks over the Mediterranean Sea.*



*The Embassy wishes a Ramadan Kareem to all who
celebrate! Read President Obama's Ramadan Greeting*

Watch the Ambassador's Ramadan Message



ACS Services

Hours of operation are 9:00 to 15:00; Sunday-Wednesday.

All customers for an ACS service must have a confirmed appointment of the proper type for the service being requested.

Overview of ACS Services

ACS provides a variety of services for the U.S. citizen community, according with U.S. law:

- **Reports of Birth Abroad (CRBA)**
- **Passport Services**
- **Adding Visa Pages** to valid passports (this service will be discontinued after Dec. 2015!)
- **Notarial Services**
- **Emergency Assistance to U.S. citizens** in cases such as: Arrests, Hospitalizations, Welfare and Whereabouts requests, Deaths, Child Custody cases, Repatriations, Lost/ Stolen Passports

How Do I Make an Appointment?

1. Visit our website <http://egypt.usembassy.gov/consular/appntmnt.html> and follow the instructions to select the appropriate type of appointment based on the service you require.
2. Once you have selected the appointment type, choose an available date and time that is convenient for you.
3. Once you see your appointment confirmation page, you have an appointment with ACS! Print this page, and bring it with you on the day of your appointment.

Be sure that you:

- Select the correct appointment type*
- Show up early for your appointment!*
- Double-check our [entry requirements](#), and leave your electronics at home, please.*

Transmitting Citizenship: Spotlight on the Consular Report of Birth Abroad

What is a CRBA? *The CRBA is an official record of U.S. citizenship issued to a person under the age of 18 who was born abroad to a U.S. citizen parent(s) and acquired U.S citizenship at birth.*

U.S. law dictates three types of citizenship acquisition:

1. Birth in the United States (*Jus Soli*)
2. Naturalization (*Lex Soli*)
3. Birth Abroad to U.S. Citizens (*Jus Sanguinis*)

The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 outlines the requirements for acquisition of U.S. citizenship through birth abroad to one or both U.S. citizen parents. The parent must have been U.S. citizens at the time of the child's birth, and they must have met certain residency/physical presence requirements in the United States before the time of the child's birth. For details on these requirements, refer to [this convenient description](#) on travel.state.gov.



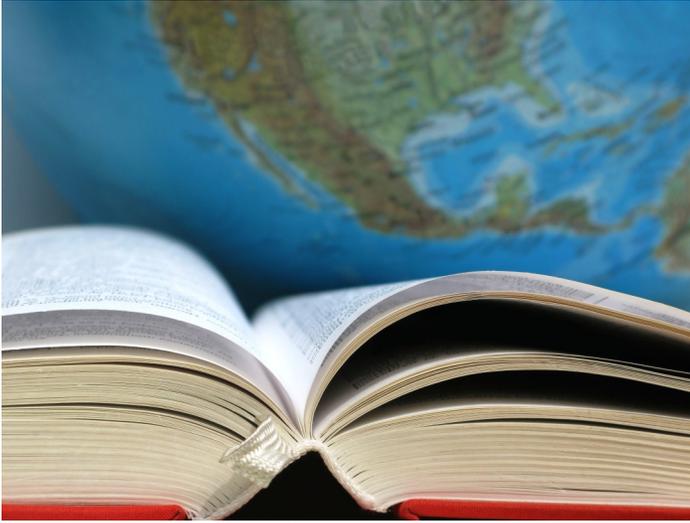
If you believe that your minor child is a U.S. citizen from birth, transmitted by you and/or their other parent, read more about the process of applying for the CRBA on our website [here](#).

We Value Your Feedback!

We are always trying to make your experience with ACS a positive one, and your input is important. Please respond to our **Customer Service Survey** with your feedback before July 31!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JSJY3K7>

Advice for Living in Egypt



ACS will be closed on the following dates for local and U.S. federal holidays:

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| July 5 | September 22-24 |
| July 17-18 | October 6 |
| July 23 | October 11 |
| September 6 | October 14 |

U.S. Immigration Visa Quick Guide

The first step toward immigration for your eligible relative is your [submission of a petition](#) for consideration by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). This government agency oversees immigration and is administered separately from the U.S. State Department.

[Learn about USCIS.](#)

For an overview of the steps after your relative's petition is approved, see this website: <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/immigrate/immigrant-process/approved.html>

Please note that ACS is not involved in any aspect of the immigrant visa process. For questions, please [refer to the Immigrant Visas page](#) on the Embassy website.

In the third of a continuing series, ACS will give you tips for living in Egypt.

Enrolling U.S. Citizen Children in School

School is out for the summer, but it's never too early to enroll your children in school for the coming year!

Private schools in Egypt accept foreign students upon proper registration and payment of tuition. Wafdeen Department of the Ministry of Education requests a "Letter of No Objection" from the home embassy of each child who registers as a non-Egyptian. This letter exempts the child from Arabic and National Studies courses. Parents of U.S. citizen children can obtain this document from ACS.

Steps:

- 1) First select the school that is best for your child, and approach them regarding registration requirements and tuition.
- 2) To complete the "Letter of No Objection," go to our website to schedule an appointment for a Notarial Service. This service costs \$50 U.S. dollars (payable in EGP as well).
- 3) At least one parent should appear on the day and time of the appointment, with the fee for the service, name of the school, their passport, and child's U.S. passport to complete the document.



Want to see something in particular in the next issue of *The Sphinx*? Email us:

ConsularCairoACS@State.Gov

Travel

Egyptian Tourist Visa Procedures for U.S. Citizens Remain Unchanged

After announcing earlier this year a new requirement that American citizens must obtain visas before arrival, the Egyptian Government Foreign Ministry has decided to maintain its existing visa procedures. Most U.S. citizen tourists and visitors can obtain one-month visitor visas in their valid passport at any of the country's ports of entry.

If your friends and family coming to visit Egypt have questions, we recommend that they consult with their local Egyptian embassy or consulate. Please monitor the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism website [here](#) for updates and further details, and the web page of the Embassy of Egypt in the United States [here](#) for additional information.

Will your Passport Expire Soon?

Did you know that many countries do not admit citizens with passports that expire in fewer than six months from the date of entry? Full-validity passports are printed in the United States and will take about one month to get to you. Plan ahead during this busy summer travel season and [schedule an appointment](#) to renew your passport!



Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

Sign up with the Department of State when you travel, both here in Egypt and elsewhere outside the United States.

Signing up for STEP allows you to receive important information from the U.S. Embassy, allows ACS to contact you and/or your relatives in the event of an emergency, and allows you to receive timely warden and security messages via email.

Be a smart traveler, enroll in STEP!



REMINDER: Visa Page Inserts End with 2015

As of January 1, 2016, U.S. Embassy Cairo will no longer accept applications for visa page inserts (extra passport pages). The State Department has decided to end the practice of issuing visa page inserts after a thorough consideration of the security and customer service aspects of this policy. Please plan accordingly!



Kids' Corner



IT'S SUMMER TIME! ...and it's time to say,

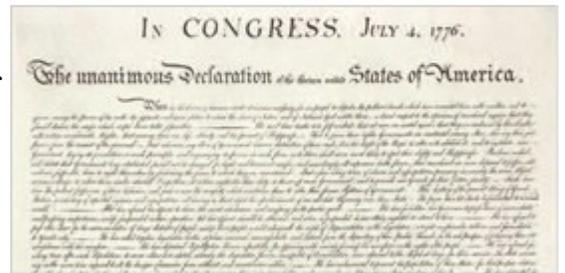
"Happy Birthday, U.S.A.!"

We celebrate our nation's Independence Day on the Fourth of July every year. We think of July 4, 1776, as a day that represents the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation. We celebrate with parades, family barbecues, time outdoors, good friends, and fireworks!

July 4th has only been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition itself dates back all the way to the 18th Century and the American Revolution. In June of 1776 the 13 colonies were fighting for independence from Great Britain, and on July 2nd the Constitutional Congress made a vote for independence and adopted the Declaration of Independence two days later. The Declaration of Independence provided both the foundation and the guiding principles for the new nation and has inspired generations of Americans and people around the world.

Learn more about the history leading up to our country's independence [in this neat activity](#).

Visit the original version of the Declaration of Independence on display [in the National Archives](#) in Washington, DC!



As we remember our country's history, we fly our flags high!



What do the symbols on our flag represent?

- ◇ 13 horizontal stripes, seven red and six white, one for each of the original 13 colonies
- ◇ 50 stars, one for each of the 50 states of the Union
- ◇ Red, for Hardiness and Valor
- ◇ White, for Purity and Innocence
- ◇ Blue, for Vigilance, Perseverance and Justice

Community Resources

Building our Warden System

Wardens are volunteers and mostly U.S. citizens who come from various parts of Egypt, representing various American expatriate sectors and communities. Wardens assist consular sections in disaster preparedness by alerting U.S. citizens to emergency situations and passing on information. They are a valuable asset for sharing key information to and from the local U.S. citizen community in Egypt.



In April, the ACS Team gathered together with twenty of our Wardens to provide essential information on their role in serving the American community in Egypt, and to thank them for their service. The day included a greeting and Q/A with Ambassador Beecroft, a review of the Warden System and its implementation with Consul General Murphy, and sessions focused on security and dealing with stressful situations—which all helped us build a stronger and more robust Warden System!

Join us in thanking these valued volunteers for our community!

If you know someone who would serve as a great warden in the Luxor area, we want to hear it! Email us: ConsularCairoACS@State.Gov

Ramadan is a beautiful time to explore the sights and sounds of Historic Cairo! Here are some ideas for you and your family to enjoy:

- ◆ Visit [Al-Azhar Park](#) for a picnic dinner at sunset! Set on a hill in Old Cairo, 74-acre Al-Azhar Park was revitalized with USAID and Agha Khan Foundation funding. The park is open to the public; admission costs 5-7 LE.
- ◆ Try an evening coffee or shisha in one of the many historic coffee shops of Khan Al-Khalili.
- ◆ Visit one of the many [USAID-supported](#) heritage sights in and around Cairo: Sabil of Muhammad ‘Ali Pasha, Architectural Complex of Lady Nafisa al-Bayda, Bab Zuwayla City Gate, Prayer Hall and Sabil of Sultan Farag Ibn Barquq, Mosque of al-Salih Tala’I, Mosque of Amir Aslam al-Silahdar, Bayt al-Razzaz: the Rice Merchant's House.

For more on the monuments of Old Cairo, check out [this publication](#) by the American Research Center in Egypt.

