

November 20, Talk to the Consul: Services for American Citizens in Honduras -- View Transcript

11-13-2007 16:06:31

U.S. Embassy Tegucigalpa: Welcome to our webchat for American citizens. We look forward to hearing from you. You may submit questions now or during the live event beginning at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, November 20.

11-20-2007 16:00:04

U.S. Embassy Tegucigalpa: Welcome to the Embassy's first-ever webchat for American citizens. Consul General Douglass Benning and members of American Citizen Services are here to answer your questions. First a word from Douglass.

11-20-2007 16:01:27

Douglass Benning: Thank you, and thanks to all of you joining us in the first of what we hope to make a series of on-line discussions. Some of you posted questions before the chat "went live," while I hope others are beginning to post a few for us to answer, but before we get to the questions, I wanted to first give you some basic information about the American Citizen Services, or ACS, section here at the Embassy. ACS provides a wide variety of routine services, most of which you've probably heard of: replacing U.S. passports, documenting children as U.S. citizens, notarizing documents for use in the U.S., assisting with social security and pensions, and providing absentee voting information. We also help Americans in distress in Honduras, including crime victims, the families of Americans who die here, and those arrested accused of committing crimes.

We can be reached a variety of different ways, including by coming in person. The Embassy is located on Avenida La Paz in central Tegucigalpa. We're open for emergencies from 8:00 to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; for passport applications and notary services from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; and for reports of birth by appointment. You can call us with a question or to make a report of birth appointment by dialing **504-238-5114**, extension 4400. You can also email questions to usahonduras@state.gov, or simply consult our website at <http://honduras.usembassy.gov>.

We estimate that there are 6,900 American residents in Honduras, and about 58,000 visit here every year. As you can see, there are many of you, and not so many of us, so we hope to be able to keep using vehicles like this webchat to get information out as widely as possible.

Now, on to the questions.

11-20-2007 16:03:53

harriscom: Firstly, thank you Douglass for your leadership and bringing us this opportunity to chat with you on the internet. This is a useful tool.

My question is regarding the Warden Program as I am a volunteer serving the San Pedro Sula area. When and how will we be provided with direction on how we can contribute, and what are the goals of the Warden program for 2008.

Thank you,

Robert Harris
Harris Communications
San Pedro Sula

Douglass Benning: Thank you again, Mr. Harris, for agreeing to serve as a warden for the American community in your area. First a few words on what a "warden" is, for those of you who might not know. The term "warden" is derived from the World War II "air raid warden" who alerted the public to danger. Wardens are usually (but not always) U.S. citizens residing in a foreign country who volunteer their assistance to the U.S. citizen community. Sometimes, a non-U.S. citizen will volunteer to be a warden, too, if, for example, they work at an organization that has a lot of Americans in it, like an American school or company, or a hotel frequented by American tourists. A warden system provides a reliable way for the Embassy to reach U.S. citizens and non-citizen nationals in the event of an emergency, disaster or threat and to distribute other information of interest to the private U.S. community. We'll often send out "warden messages" (via email, usually) that we ask our wardens to disseminate to the Americans in their community. The messages can be related to security matters, or they might be about procedural changes or new hours at the Embassy. We sent out a warden message to announce this webchat, in fact.

We have just completed the recruitment of new wardens and will be sending information to all wardens shortly to explain the types of tasks you may be asked to do, but what I've just said is it in a nutshell. We outlined some of the things we ask wardens in Honduras to do in the confirmation letter of your appointment. Here, tasks can range from helping us locate a missing family member to passing on information during large-scale emergencies like hurricanes. In addition, one of the most important jobs for the wardens is encouraging their fellow citizens to register with the Embassy (which anyone can do by visiting <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs>). Mr. Harris, we will be sending you further information and instructions in the coming weeks on how people can register online or by using the traditional, paper-based form.

11-20-2007 16:06:51

jfallonms: what do i need to do to register at the embassy?

Douglass Benning: ACS attempts to maintain a register of all Americans who are resident or traveling through Honduras. By registering, we will have the information we need if you have an emergency and you will receive information from us on matters of importance (strikes, hurricanes, voting, town hall meetings). The information you provide is only used to help you in an emergency and not divulged to any third parties without your express permission.

It only takes a few minutes to complete the on line registration form at: <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. Once there, you create an account with your own username and password, then provide some basic biographic information. You'll also need to give contact information, especially your email address. If you're just visiting Honduras, you would enter yourself as a "short term visitor." If you plan on residing here, go with "long term resident." Once you've created your account, you can update your contact information at any time, and add new trips to other destinations. You can also request to receive Consular Information Sheets (CIS) for the countries you're visiting. The CIS contains basic information on safety, security, access to medical care, road conditions, entry requirements and other topics for

every country in the world. You can take a look at the CIS for Honduras by visiting this site: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1135.html.

11-20-2007 16:09:55

adam2: Hi, I am in US now, and I am planning to go back to China. I wonder how I can make an appointment for visa application interview from US?

Douglass Benning: We're focusing during this discussion on issues affecting American citizens in Honduras, while your question seems to be how to get a visa appointment at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing or one of the U.S. Consulates in China. We'll be doing a visa webchat in the near future to answer all kinds of visa questions, but the best place for you to look for information on our missions in China is <http://beijing.usembassy-china.org.cn/>

If you're in the U.S. and want to make an appointment at the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa, you'll need to have someone here in Honduras buy a PIN at Banco Atlantida to use to call our call center on your behalf. The number, dialed from Honduras, is 800-791-9200. Please note that non-residents of Honduras can make appointments for visas, but their eligibility for a visa will be based on their ties to Honduras. Petition-based work visa applications for non-residents of Honduras will not be accepted.

11-20-2007 16:11:15

smsanchez: How can I register to vote in the 2008 elections?

Douglass Benning: Thanks for this very important question. One of the most important jobs of all U.S. Embassies and Consulates is helping Americans abroad with absentee voting. You can find all the information you need on absentee voting at the website of the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) at www.fvap.gov, but in a few words, this is how it works:

Contact the local elections officials in the U.S. city or county where you last resided (a list of voting districts with addresses by state is available here:

<http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/vag.html#ch3>). You'll need to send them a Federal Postcard Application Form (FPCA) to register or, if you're already registered, update your registration. Be sure to include all your contact information, including phone numbers, mailing address, and email address (in the "remarks" box). The local election officials will determine your registration status and eligibility to vote in their district and send you a confirmation that they received your FPCA; if they have any questions about your eligibility, they'll call or email you.

Prior to any federal election, including the 2008 presidential election, those same election officials will send you a pre-printed absentee ballot. You mark your vote(s) following the instructions on the ballot, and mail the voted ballot back. If you've sent an FPCA but don't receive a pre-printed ballot within 30 days of the election, you can use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) to write in your candidate(s) of choice and mail to your voting district. If you receive your pre-printed ballot after doing that, you go ahead and vote on the new ballot; only that one will be counted, as FWAB's are always counted last. Instructions for filling out the FPCA and an on-line version of that form is available here:

<http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefzca.html>, while the FWAB is available here: <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefwab.html>. Hard copies of these forms are also available from the Embassy.

You can stop by the American Citizen Services section or send an email with your

complete name, mailing address, and voting state to USAHonduras@state.gov and we'll send you forms and instructions.

11-20-2007 16:16:50

tavini13: Hi, my name is Gustavo Rodriguez and I'm a US citizen living in Honduras. I am a high school senior and will soon apply to universities in the US. I want to fill out the FAFSA, but I need a social security number. How can I get one? Also, my parents have never paid taxes to the US, only to the state of Honduras. Based on this info, can I still apply for federal student aid? Thanks for your time.

Douglass Benning: Thanks for your question, Gustavo.

You can apply for a Social Security number through the federal benefits section of ACS, during our daily 8:00 – 11:30 a.m. drop-in hours. However, you will need to bring some supporting documentation: you will need to bring your birth certificate and U.S. passport. If you are under 18 years old, one of your parents will have to accompany you and you will need to bring school and medical records that support your identity. Since we have to send the applications to the U.S. for processing, it can take up to 5 months to get your number. In the states the average waiting time is 15 days. You may want to visit www.ssa.gov for more information about applying in the U.S.

As for your ability to apply for Federal Student Aid, the requirements state you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen;
- Have a valid Social Security number (unless you're from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau);
- Comply with Selective Service registration, if required (see www.sss.gov for more information);
- Have a high school diploma or a General Education Development (GED) Certificate or pass an approved ability-to-benefit (ATB) test;
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student working toward a degree or certificate in an eligible program at a school that participates in the federal student aid programs.

Also:

You must not owe a refund on a federal grant or be in default on a federal student loan;

You must have financial need (except for unsubsidized Stafford Loans);

You must not have certain drug convictions.

As far as I understand it, U.S. tax liability is just that: taxes you owe in the U.S. If your parents never owed U.S. tax, they shouldn't have paid any, so that shouldn't have any effect on your ability to apply for aid. Contact your school's financial aid office for more information. All this information, and much more on applying for financial aid, can be found at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>.

11-20-2007 16:20:18

trent_horton: How do we document our 7 week old baby as an American Citizen? How long does the process take?

What if an emergency happens & we have to leave the country before the paperwork is completed?

Douglass Benning: Dear Mr. Horton, first, congratulations on the birth of your child!

If your baby was born in Honduras to at least one American citizen parent, they should come in to the Embassy to apply for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA). At that time, the consular officer will determine whether the child was born a U.S. citizen (this depends on the citizenship of the parents as well as the length of time that the U.S. citizen parent lived in the U.S.) You can find full information on this process at

http://honduras.usembassy.gov/english/mission/sections/con_07.htm.

In order to provide more efficient service to our customers, applications for birth reports in Tegucigalpa are by appointment only. No appointments are needed for our consular office in San Pedro Sula. Approval can take anywhere from a couple of days to several months, depending on the completeness of the documentation brought by the parents.

In the case of an extreme emergency, we have the ability to issue an emergency passport in a matter of hours but this is only for use in cases of life or death, like a national crisis involving an evacuation of American citizens.

11-20-2007 16:22:34

smsanchez: I am a US citizen married to a Honduran. Our daughter was born in La Ceiba on Nov. 10th. If we complete all of the requirements that the US Embassy has to Report a Birth Abroad will that give our daughter US citizenship or is there something else that we need to do? Thank you.

Douglass Benning: Yes, the Consular Report of Birth is proof of U.S. citizenship. If you meet all the requirements, your daughter will be a U.S. citizen once her Report of Birth Abroad is approved. You can find the requirements online at

http://tegucigalpa.usembassy.gov/english/mission/sections/con_07.htm

Once you've completed the application and gathered all the needed documents, you can call us at **238-5114, ext. 4400** to schedule an afternoon appointment. Both parents and your daughter will need to attend the interview. It's very important to read the instructions carefully so that you bring what is needed to the interview. You can also apply for her passport and Social Security number at the same time. And congratulations to you, too!

11-20-2007 16:27:11

Stephen2: Social Security Problem

When I applied for Social Security at the Consulate in Tegus. I had direct deposit to an account in Miami and a Miami mailing address at TransExpress mail courier service. I noted in the form my residence address in San Pedro Sula. For a while all was fine for mail and direct deposit. Later I changed direct deposit to Banco Atlántida who sent in the change form with my San Pedro Sula home address from the bank account. Because of the address change and after months of phone calls and emails I finally got retroactive deposits to Banco Atlántida and all is well again except for one thing. My mailing address is now my street address in San Pedro which is very unreliable. The first mailing to that address (only one I've received so far) was delivered 2 blocks away and fortunately the resident brought it to me. I specifically applied for Social Security with the Miami TransExpress PO Box address to make sure I receive all correspondence on time, especially annual requests for information. Miss those deadlines and no deposit! In summary, the local postal service is unreliable and I would like alternative means of communication such as a Miami TransExpress

mailing address or email. Is it true that I MUST have SS mail sent to my Honduras residence and can't have a Miami PO Box mailing address or receive correspondence by email? Anything but Hondurcor!

Douglass Benning: Sorry to hear about the problems you're having with the postal system here. You can receive your mail through a mailing address in the States. However, you have to receive your benefits (the money) in the same country where you reside and make sure SSA knows that your permanent address is in Honduras and not in the states. You can discuss this further with our federal benefits officer.

We have drop-in hours daily from 8 a.m. to 11:30 Monday through Friday or you can also call us at **238-5114, ext 4400**.

11-20-2007 16:30:48

Chat Participant: My question regards documenting a child born in Honduras to two American parents. The Required Documents page on the consulate web page says we need the Honduran Birth Certificate in the Literal Form. Could you please explain exactly what that is and where it should be obtained? Thanks so much!

Douglass Benning: The Honduran birth certificate in "literal" form is a long form birth certificate which provides additional information. You may obtain this certificate at the local civil registry (Registro Nacional de las Personas, or RNP) but you must specify that you want an "acta de nacimiento en forma literal" You can find a sample at:

http://honduras.usembassy.gov/english/mission/sections/con_07.htm

11-20-2007 16:32:27

Chat Participant: For travellers in Honduras, how will the embassy contact us should a natural or other disaster occur?

Douglass Benning: When you register on-line (the link again is: <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs>), be sure to include as many means of communicating with you as possible. Most important for us is a valid email address, as email is the quickest and most efficient way to reach the largest number of people in the event of a disaster or crisis.

But also include all the phone numbers you have, the address where you'll be staying, and your emergency contacts in the U.S. If you don't have all that information when you first register, don't forget to go back into your account and enter it once it's available to you. In addition to contacting you directly, during a major disaster we'll work with Honduran authorities to send messages over local and national media, and through law enforcement officials. We'll also contact travel agencies, tour companies and cruise lines to get information to American citizens traveling with them.

11-20-2007 16:37:45

Tricia: I am an american citizen living in Roatan Honduras. There is a huge population of stray dogs and cats residing on this island. They are starving and many of them are dangerous. The only population control here is for the municipality to routinely put out poison. This is a painful and horrible way for a living thing to perish. Also the amount of exotic and endangered animals that make their way over from the mainland and are sold here on the streets is unacceptable. This is done in broad daylight in front of the authorities. I want to know why these horrible, vicious and illegal practices are not stopped? Thank You, Tricia Power

Douglass Benning: Dear Ms. Power, thanks very much for your message. I certainly agree that dealing with a large population of stray animals presents many

challenges, and that the subsequent harm to the environment of the method currently used can be great.

While we understand that Honduran laws and practices can be quite different from what we are used to in the United States, it is always important to recognize that we are all subject to Honduran law and regulations while residing or visiting this country. The American Embassy does not have the authority to force Honduran government agencies to change or enforce local laws. Americans in Honduras who are concerned about this and other local or national issues should try to work within the municipality and Honduran legal system to make a difference. As in the US when there are situations you are unhappy with, you can work within your community to change it.

I strongly encourage you to work with like-minded individuals in Roatan to raise your concerns with local officials there. Roatan is a wonderful place, and deserves the attention of all of its residents.

11-20-2007 16:37:55

tavini13: Thanks, Mr. Benning :) - Gustavo R.

11-20-2007 16:47:13

Granita: I live in the San Pedro Sula area. Do I have to go all the way to Tegucigalpa to renew my passport?

Douglass Benning: Actually, the Embassy employs a "Consular Agent" in San Pedro Sula. His office is located on the 11th floor of the Banco Atlantida building across from the Central Park and is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The number there is 558-1580 (for messages only; for routine passport questions check the Embassy website, and for emergencies, call the Embassy at 238-5114, ext. 4400). The Consular Agent provides routine as well as limited emergency services for American Citizens. He does not provide any visa-related services or information.

11-20-2007 16:48:14

vaya pues: What if I have an emergency after the Embassy is closed? Who do I call?

Douglass Benning: The Embassy maintains an after-hours duty program, so an officer is always available to provide guidance and assistance. You can reach the duty officer by calling 236-9325. This is a number reserved for genuine emergencies, like being arrested, being the victim of a crime, becoming seriously ill, or when someone dies. It's not for routine passport or visa questions, or for anything that can wait until the Embassy re-opens.

11-20-2007 16:50:19

rjs: I am a US citizen and have never resided in the United States. Can I vote in U.S. elections?

Douglass Benning: It depends on the state. For instance, New York allows Americans living overseas who have never lived in the United States to use the address where their parents last resided in New York as their registered voting address. You should check the Voting Assistance Guide on the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) website at: www.fvap.gov for more information on the policies of each state.

If the state in which your parents last resided will allow you to register to vote using that address, you should note in the "remarks" section of the registration form that

you are using your parents' last address as your voting address. Even if the state does not allow you to use your parents' last address, you may still submit a Federal Post Card Application to see if you can register to vote in that state. Just be sure to briefly explain your situation in the "remarks" section of the form.

11-20-2007 16:50:34

Alfred Pflueger: How long does it usually take to receive a passport when you renew? Also, can you renew 6 months early?

Douglass Benning: Dear Mr. Pflueger, if you apply for your passport at the Consular Section at the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa, the passport will be ready in approximately two weeks. If you apply for it at our Consular Agency in San Pedro Sula (11th floor of Banco Atlantida "Oficina Principal" across from the Central Park), your passport will be returned in approximately four weeks. Yes, you may renew your passport 6 months prior to the expiration date. Please visit the Embassy's website at: <http://honduras.usembassy.gov> for additional information on how to apply for a passport.

11-20-2007 16:53:41

Trish in Honduras: We have lived in Honduras since 2001 and are raising a Honduran child, who is now 6 years old and has lived with our family since he was 14 months. We have been working on the process of legally adopting him, but as you may know, this is a very lengthy and difficult process in Honduras. As a family, we cannot go back to the states together, with this child. We have been wondering if it would be possible to get a visa for him, so that he could make a short visit (a few weeks) to the states with us. Trish Sowers Gracias Lempira

Douglass Benning: Dear Ms. Sowers, Thank you for your question. Until the adoption is finalized in Honduras, the child will have to qualify for a tourist "B2" non-immigrant visa in order to visit the U.S. with you and your family. While the law of non-immigrant visas is complex, the decision of whether an applicant is qualified for a tourist visa usually comes down to whether or not the applicant can demonstrate that he or she does not intend to immigrate to the U.S. In order to meet this standard, applicants usually bring documentation and other evidence to demonstrate that they have strong ties to a residence outside of the United States. Additional information on the process for applying for a tourist visa and what evidence will aid the Consular Officer during the interview is available on our website: http://honduras.usembassy.gov/english/mission/sections/con_non_iv.htm.

To be fair, it is often difficult for children being adopted by U.S. citizens to meet the requirements for a tourist visa. While we understand that the Honduran adoption processing can take a long time and be difficult, a tourist visa cannot be used as an alternative to this process. However, I can promise the child a full and fair review during his visa interview. We would also welcome you to discuss his case with our American Services Officer who can provide whatever information we have on the Honduran adoption process.

11-20-2007 16:55:39

smsanchez: Dear Consul General Benning, Thank you so much for taking the time to provide us with this very valuable information. Since we live in La Ceiba, can we report our new baby in SPS or is it better to go to Tegucigalpa? We also need to know when the Embassy will be closed for the holidays because that is probably our best opportunity to make a trip to Tegucigalpa if necessary. Thank you again.

Douglass Benning: You can certainly report your baby's birth in San Pedro Sula at our Consular Agency. However, the paperwork will be sent to Tegucigalpa for the final decision and you may be asked to supply additional documentation. All Consular Report of Birth Abroad interviews in Tegucigalpa are by appointment only. You may find additional information on this procedure at:

http://honduras.usembassy.gov/english/mission/sections/con_07.htm

By the way, **the Embassy will be closed on Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 22, and Christmas, December 25.** You can find a full schedule of Embassy closures at:

<http://honduras.usembassy.gov/english/mission/mision.htm>.

11-20-2007 17:00:08

U.S. Embassy Tegucigalpa: Because of the number of questions we've been receiving, we are extending our webchat for an extra 15 minutes.

11-20-2007 17:01:53

Sheila2: I have been asked by Hope Chest, a non profit group doing mission work in Honduras to discuss a situation that we were asked to help with while visiting a couple of weeks ago in Utila. There is a girl her name is [], she is 3 -4 years old and is in need of surgery for removal of pre cancerous place on her back. There is a hospital and surgeon in the US that has committed to performing the surgeries required to assist this young child but she has been unable to obtain the proper travel documents and has been turned down 2 or 3 times.

My question to you is if we have a sponsoring family in the US that would act as her temporary legal guardian for the time she is in the US to have the surgeries and that will insure she is taken back to her family in Utila what would need to be done in order to secure her travel documents? I understand that in the past her family wanted a family member to be with the child, however they understand that if that is a problem and is a deterrent in [] getting a medical visa so she can obtain the surgeries that are necessary, they are now willing to send her with a sponsoring family or a responsible party who would deliver her to the sponsoring family in the US. What can be done to obtain the documentation necessary for this medical trip? There are letters from the Baptist Hospital in Nashville, TN that should be in her file. Please advise what additional information you need and what needs to be done.

Douglass Benning: First of all, I'd like to say how sorry I am to hear about [her] condition. This situation arises far more frequently than anyone wants to see. It's tragic when a child so young has a serious illness and heartbreaking when they are not able to receive the treatment they need in their home country. I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate you and the members of all the voluntary and missionary organizations in Honduras that are doing such amazing work trying to improve the lives of Hondurans every day. I have to say I am proud that so many American citizens are willing to give their time and extraordinary effort and caring to help those most in need. Obviously, we want to do everything we can to support those efforts and we are currently working on developing a system by which non-profit organizations in Honduras will be able to submit information to us in support of such difficult cases.

Under U.S. Immigration law, there is no category for a "medical" or "humanitarian" visa. This means that if a person needs to go to the U.S. for medical or humanitarian reasons, they would need to qualify for what is known as a B1/B2 (tourist/business) visa. A non-U.S. citizen is allowed to seek medical treatment while in the U.S. on a

B1/B2 but every applicant has to satisfy a consular officer that he or she will return to Honduras after treatment. In fact, what immigration law tells consular officers is that we have to presume that every applicant for a B1/B2 visa is intending to stay in the U.S. until they prove otherwise.

I am unable to review individual cases, but [she] may have been refused a visa because her family was unable to convince the interviewing officers that her ties to Honduras (family connections, good income) were indeed strong enough. [] and her family, with your support, may, of course, apply again at any time. I wish you and her all the best.

11-20-2007 17:04:51

Chat Participant: hi douglas, My name is Jorge mejia. I wanted to thank you for this opportunity to chat with you. My question for you is if I can apply for a pardon for my father since I am claiming him so he can be able to come to the us. I was at an interview on nov. 7 with the resident counsul and we agreed on some extra time for me to send him a copy of a fbi background check for my dad wich doesn't show any felony conviction but I wanted to ask you if there is a way of me instead on sending him the document if I could personally go to the ebassy and deliver them and also talk to him about it

Douglass Benning: Again, this chat is focused on ACS questions; in fact, we plan to dedicate an entire other chat on immigrant visa issues. As I'm sure you know, immigrant visa cases can be quite complicated and often depend on the specific circumstances of the case. Cases that involve waivers (pardons) are even more complicated since they usually involve applicants who have had past immigration problems in the States. The Immigrant Visa Section takes walk up inquiries from American citizens at 11 am Mondays - Thursdays. I encourage you to come and speak the Immigrant Visa Section directly regarding your father's case.

11-20-2007 17:09:09

Douglass Benning: To Trish in Honduras, a quick further note: Under Honduran law a child undergoing adoption procedures must obtain a written authorization from IHNFA (Instituto Hondureno de la Ninez y Familia, the central authority for adoptions here), in order to travel outside of Honduras. If you apply for a visa for your child, that authorization should be shown to the consular officer at the time of the visa interview.

11-20-2007 17:14:20

Trish in Honduras: Thanks so very much for your help! Trish Sowers

Douglass Benning: You're very welcome, Trish.

11-20-2007 17:14:38

Chat Participant: In case we are not able to ask all the questions we have is there a way to still send our concerns directly to you via email or is there a date we would have the opportunity to chat with you via this webchat?

Douglass Benning: Thanks for that question. We have enjoyed having this opportunity to hear from you all and share information about the services we offer American citizens.

As you can see, we have lots of information available on our website:

http://honduras.usembassy.gov/english/index_e1.htm but if your question is not addressed there, please feel free to send any specific questions to usahonduras@state.gov.

For non-immigrant visa questions, you can email tgniv@state.gov; for immigrant visa questions, email tggiv@state.gov. We are planning future webchats on specific topics, including on non-immigrant and immigrant visas; we'll let you know when.

11-20-2007 17:15:40

Douglass Benning: In closing, I'd like to thank you all again for your interest and for the many questions you posted today. I'd also like to thank the dedicated officers and Honduran employees of the entire Consular Section for bringing their expertise and experience in handling such a wide range of topics. And special thanks go to one member of the ACS team, who started working with us here at the Embassy 30 years ago today! Congratulations, my friend! Please accept my gratitude on behalf of the many thousands of American citizens whom you've helped over the years, and on behalf of the U.S. government for your astounding record of professionalism and service. You're one of a kind. To all my fellow Americans, have a safe and happy Thanksgiving. Douglass

11-20-2007 17:16:42

U.S. Embassy Tegucigalpa: Thank you all for participating. We will be posting a transcript of this session on the Embassy's webpage soon (<http://honduras.usembassy.gov>). Stay tuned for future webchats. Happy Thanksgiving!
