

Message for U.S. Citizens: Expanded Mail-In Payment Options
for
Adult Passport Renewals

April 1, 2016

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IS TRANSMITTING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION THROUGH THE EMBASSY WARDEN SYSTEM AS A PUBLIC SERVICE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE PHILIPPINES. PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS MESSAGE TO ALL U.S. CITIZENS IN YOUR ORGANIZATION OR NEIGHBORHOOD.

Effective April 4, 2016, the U.S. Embassy is expanding the number of banks involved in our mail-in payment program to include Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), Banco de Oro (BDO), and Security Bank (SBC).

U.S. citizens renewing their adult passports by mail using the DS-82 form may choose to include their payment with the application. U.S. citizens may choose this option by including a U.S.-dollar demand draft issued by any of these three participating banks and made out to “U.S. Embassy Manila” for \$110. This demand draft should be included in your passport renewal documentation. **We only accept demand drafts from these three participating banks and do not accept any other financial instruments at this time.**

U.S. citizens renewing their adult passports still have the option to pay the application fee in person or through a representative at the Embassy cashier or at the U.S. Consular Agency in Cebu after being notified by email with instructions on payment. When making the payment, please bring the email notification sent to you by the Embassy. For specific information on our mail-in renewal process, please visit our website, <http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=http://manila.usembassy.gov/service/passports/renewal.html>.

Note: The timestamp on this email message may reflect Washington, D.C. time, which may differ from local time.

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U.S. Embassy, Manila, Philippines

Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Security Reminders about the Upcoming May 9 Elections

April 1, 2016

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IS TRANSMITTING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AS A PUBLIC SERVICE TO U.S. CITIZENS IN THE PHILIPPINES. PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS MESSAGE TO ALL U.S. CITIZENS IN YOUR ORGANIZATION OR NEIGHBORHOOD. THANK YOU.

The U.S. Embassy reminds U.S. citizens in the Philippines that May 9 is a national and local election day in the Philippines. Philippine authorities have taken steps to reduce the possibility of election-related disturbances before, during, and after May 9. The Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines have established checkpoints in areas near polling places. Additionally, on January 10,

Philippine authorities implemented a ban on bearing, carrying, and transporting firearms in public areas during the election period, from January 10 through June 8. The penalty for anyone caught in violation of the ban is one to six years in jail, with foreigners subject to possible deportation after completion of any prison sentence. For more information please visit the [Comelec website](#).

We remind U.S. citizens to remain vigilant and aware of their surroundings, assess their personal security, avoid public gatherings in connection with the May 9 elections, and avoid demonstrations. As a reminder, even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. Avoid areas where demonstrations are taking place and exercise caution when in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations. The Embassy also wishes to remind U.S. citizens to pay attention to the local news media and Philippine government announcements regarding possible election-related disturbances and any additional security measures imposed during the election period.

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For further information:

- See the [State Department's travel website](#) for the [Worldwide Caution](#), Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the [Philippines Country Specific Information](#).
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the U.S. Embassy in Manila, Philippines , located at 1201 Roxas Boulevard , at +(63) (2) 301-2000, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is +(63) (2) 301-2000.
- Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

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VA OPC Travel Pay

From: VAManila@va.gov

To:

Subject: VA Manila Outpatient Clinic Will Continue To Provide Beneficiary Travel

Date: Mon, 28 Mar 2016 07:54:35 +0800

On March 18, VA issued an announcement indicating the VA Manila Outpatient Clinic would discontinue paying beneficiary travel effective April 11, 2016. Due to concerns raised following this announcement, VHA has determined that the VA Manila Outpatient Clinic will continue to provide beneficiary travel benefits as we work to identify a long- term resolution. We will continue to keep Veterans and other stakeholders informed.

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