

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

The U.S. Embassy is transmitting the following monthly newsletter via its warden system as a public service to U.S. citizens in Mongolia. Please feel free to disseminate this message to U.S. citizens in your organizations or to other Americans you know.



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Welcome to our new Consular Associate
 Please join the Consular Section in welcoming our new Consular Associate, JoAnn Donovan, who moved to Mongolia over a year ago and worked in the Embassy Community Liaison Office before joining the Consular Section. Previously, JoAnn served as a Consular Associate in Manila for over five years. She also has a little over three years of consular related work experience serving as Consular Assistant in Niamey and Hanoi and as Passport Specialist at the Special Issuance Agency in D.C. She will serve in the consular section for the next year.

American Citizens Day at the Embassy postponed from October 1 to a date to be determined!



Due to the Federal government shutdown, Embassy Ulaanbaatar's Consular Section had to postpone an "American Citizens Day" open house at the U.S. Embassy. Now that a budget was passed, a new date will be set most likely in November or December and announced through the warden notices and on the U.S. Embassy Ulaanbaatar Consular Section Facebook. We look forward to welcoming all American Citizens to the Embassy.

Diversity Visa Lottery Reminder

Diversity Visa (DV) 2015 program began on **October 1, 2013, and runs through November 2, 2013.**

Key Details:

- The DV-2015 program will be conducted entirely electronically, including electronic entry. The State Department website established for the submission of E-DV entries is www.dvlottery.state.gov.
- The confirmation screen page provides information the entrant must use to electronically check the status of his/her own entry through the Entrant Status Check available at www.dvlottery.state.gov.
- **The law allows only one entry by or for each person during each registration period.** The Department of State uses sophisticated technology to detect multiple entries. **Entrants who submit more than one entry will be disqualified.** Please refer to the DV-2015 Instructions at http://travel.state.gov/pdf/DV_2015_Instructions.pdf for complete program rules and answers to Frequently Asked Questions from entrants. These instructions should be read carefully as failure to comply with all the instructions could result in the disqualification of an entry. Potential entrants may send questions to the Consular Section's Immigrant Visa Unit at UlaanbaatarIV@state.gov.

Applying for and Renewing your Child's Passport

A passport is not only your child's ticket to world travel, but also serves as a primary form of photo identification for the rest of his/her life. Applying and renewing your children's passports is simple but there are some things you need to be aware of before you begin the process.

Passports for minors under age 16

All minors regardless of age, including newborns and infants, must have their own passport when traveling internationally by air. U.S. citizen children under age 16 arriving by land or sea from Mexico, Canada, and the Caribbean may present an original or copy of his or her birth certificate, a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, or a Naturalization Certificate.

- Have 5 year validity; unlike adult passports that are valid for 10 years
- **Cost less** than an adult passport
- In most cases, require **two parent consent**
- Cannot be renewed by mail
- Require the DS-11 application whether a first time applicant or a returning applicant

What you need to apply

1. A completed DS-11 form
2. One 2"x2" passport photo
3. Evidence of child's U.S. citizenship
4. Evidence of relationship between child and parent(s)/guardian(s)
5. Parent(s) or guardian(s) identification and photocopy of identification
6. Provide parental consent
7. Pay applicable fee

Photo Requirements

You will need one 2"x2" photo of your child. Remember "Parents cannot appear in the photo with their child"*
"Tips for taking pictures of your baby—Lay your baby on his or her back on a plain white or off-white sheet. This will ensure your baby's head is supported and provide a plain background for the photo. Make certain there are no shadows on your baby's face, especially if you take a picture from above with the baby lying down. You can also cover a car seat with a plain white or off-white sheet and take a picture of your child in the car seat. This will also ensure your baby's head is supported."

Special Requirements for All Minors Age 16 and 17. They shall:

- Appear **in person** at the time of application
- Have a parent or guardian **present photo identification** if the minor does not have identification of his or her own
- Provide a **photocopy** of the same **ID document** that will be presented at the time of application (applicant or parent/guardian). See photocopy requirements at travel.state.gov.
- Establish **parental consent** (You may be requested to provide written parental consent for a child age 16 or 17 if it is not implied on the application)

In addition to these special requirements, all minors age 16 and 17 should follow the instructions at [How to Apply for the First Time \(In Person\)](#) at travel.state.gov.

Ask the Consul

If I was refused a visa, does this mean I will never be able to go to the U.S.?

No, not necessarily. There are several types of refusals and most of them can be overcome. Let me give you a brief explanation of the most common refusal types:

221(g) – What this usually means is that the officer needs something else from the applicant before he or she can make a final decision. In most cases, this is actually a good sign. It generally means the officer is inclined to make a positive decision, but needs something to complete the picture. Maybe the date on the student I-20 form needs to be updated, or the passport validity needs to be extended? Maybe the officer needs to see DHS extension approval papers, or maybe your old passport...

Whatever it is, in most cases you will be asked to provide something specific. It can also mean that in your case some additional processing is required, in which case there is no additional action required on your part. Once processing is complete, the consular section will get in touch with you to let you know the final adjudication decision.

214(b) – This means the applicant was not able to overcome the presumption of immigrant intent during the interview.

Section 214(b) of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act states: Every alien shall be presumed to be an immigrant until he establishes to the satisfaction of the consular officer, at the time of the application for a visa...that he is entitled to non-immigrant status.

This is not a permanent ineligibility. If the applicant's situation changes in the future, or there is additional evidence that might clarify the situation, the applicant can reapply. There is no time restriction on this, or a particular amount of time the applicant has to wait before reapplying. But consider this: if there is no new evidence and nothing significant has changed in the applicant's situation, and the applicant reapplies very soon after the refusal, the result will likely be the same. So, in many cases, it is best to wait for some time before reapplying. Also keep in mind that the refusal was not due to one single factor, such as a missing document, the applicant's marital status, or travel history. The decision was based on the overall picture of the applicant presented during the interview. If the officer needed something specific, he or she would have asked for it and the application would have been refused under section 221(g) – see above.

All visa officers worldwide adjudicate based on the same law and guidelines, so it really does not matter which officer conducts the interview. We may have different personalities and different interviewing methods, but we all follow the same laws. Applying for a nonimmigrant visa is not a lottery and luck has nothing to do with the determination of eligibility for a visa.

Other refusals:

There are, of course, more serious reasons for consular officers to refuse a visa. For example, under the law, we have to refuse visas to applicants who have a criminal history, to applicants who overstayed a previous visa and were out of legal status in the U.S., and to those who seriously misrepresent their situation when applying for a visa. A lengthy overstay on a previous visit to the U.S. can result in a 3- or even a 10-year ban.

Upcoming Holiday Closings in November

November 4	Chinggis Khaan's Birthday
November 11	Veteran's Day
November 28	Thanksgiving Day

TRAVEL WARNINGS

Republic of South Sudan 10/22/2013

Sudan 10/11/2013

Burundi 10/11/2013

Colombia 10/11/2013

Chad 10/10/2013

Lebanon 10/09/2013

Syria 10/07/2013

Tunisia 10/04/2013

Korea, Democratic People's Republic of 10/01/2013

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please visit this website:

<http://www.travel.state.gov/>

Embassy Contact Information

American Citizen Services
Embassy of the United States
11th Micro District
Big Ring Road
Ulaanbaatar 13, Mongolia
Tel: 976-7007-6001
Fax: 976-7007-6014

After-hours or emergency number: 9911-4168

E-mail: UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov - or -

American Embassy Ulaanbaatar
4410 Ulaanbaatar Place

American Citizens' Visa Hour

Every Tuesday from 4:00pm to 5:00pm at the Consular



Smart
Traveler
Enrollment
Program