

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

American Citizens' Information Hour

Every Tuesday at 4:00pm at the Consular Section, except on U.S. and local holidays.

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Happy Easter!



Ask the Consul

I am traveling very soon. How can I get a passport in a hurry?

The Consular Section often receives “emergency” phone calls from American Citizens, asking for passport-related services, whether to add extra pages or to renew one’s passport immediately. The U.S. Embassy is able to issue limited validity passports (Emergency Photo-Digitized Passport, EPDP) to facilitate travel for genuine emergencies only. Please send us an email clearly stating your reasons for an EPDP. The Consul will then review your request.

Bearers must apply for a full validity passport upon completion of the emergency travel and may replace the limited validity passport free of charge with a full validity passport within one year of the issuance of the limited passport.

We encourage all American Citizens to plan ahead, especially before a big trip abroad, and to check the validity of their U.S. passport. Keep in mind that the Mongolian Immigration Authority mandates that foreigners’ passports have at least one year of remaining validity in order to renew a Mongolian residency permit.

Consular Visit to Darkhan in May

We would like to invite interested U.S. citizens to meet with Vice Consul, Patrick Rumley, on May 20. We ask that you pass this message along to your American friends and neighbors who will be in the area on the day, especially those who don’t have email access. If you would like to attend this outreach meeting, please email your name and passport number to UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov by May 13, 2015. You will be notified of the exact time and place of the meeting. Thank you!!

Did you know:

Miami International Airport has launched a new mobile app that enables passengers to submit their passport and customs declaration information through a smartphone.

The app, developed by US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will help save time as filling up traditional paper forms will no longer be necessary. There will be "dedicated lanes" for mobile passport users. Those who download the app will be asked to set up a profile using passport information.

Consular Notary Services

Due to government regulations, the consular section **cannot** provide the following notary services:

- Notarization/legalization/authentication of U.S. State-issued documents, also known as apostilles. This includes U.S. Birth Certificates, Marriage Certificates, Death Certificates and Divorce Decrees. Apostilles for U.S. documents to be used in Mongolia can be obtained by the U.S. state where the document was issued. A list of contact information for each state can be found at [The Hague Convention website](#).
- Notarization/legalization/authentication of U.S. academic credentials. Contact the issuing educational institution for authentication.
- Certified copies ("true copies") of original, non- U.S. documents to be used in the United States.
- Certified copies of Naturalization Certificates. Please visit the [USCIS website](#) for more information.
- Certified copies of U.S. State Department Reports of Birth Abroad (CRBAs). [Please click here](#) for more information.
- Validation of driver's licenses. Please contact the [Department of Motor Vehicles](#) of the state that issued your driver's license.

Social Security Benefit

If you are a U.S. citizen or green card holder living outside the U.S., you can receive your Social Security payment as long as you're at least 62 years old and eligible for Social Security payments, having earned the required 40 credits by contributing to U.S. Social Security for at least 10 years. Your benefits can be mailed to your foreign address or deposited electronically in a financial institution located in your country of residence or in the U.S.

For a foreign spouse who wants to collect spousal Social Security benefits (one-half of your benefit paid while you are alive) or survivor benefits (your full benefit paid after you die), he/she must be of full retirement age (or age 62 for reduced benefits) and the two of you must have lived together in the U.S. (not necessarily continuously) for at least five years while married.

The U.S. Embassy in Ulaanbaatar is not a Social Security claims-processing post. The Social Security Administration's regional office is located in Manila, Philippines. For any inquiries regarding social security such as social security benefits, the status of your social security card application, required documentation, social security claims, etc., please contact:

Email: FBU.Manila@ssa.gov

Phone Number: (63)(2)301-2000

Fax Number: (63)(2)708-9723/9714

Did you remember to file your taxes?

If not, don't worry. If you reside overseas, you are allowed an automatic 2-month extension to file your return until June 15. However, any tax due must have been paid by the original return due date (April 15th) to avoid interest charges. Publication 4732 contains specific tax information for Americans living abroad and can be downloaded at: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4732.pdf>.

You also may have to file FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR), by June 30, 2015.

Top Five Tax Documents for U.S. Expats to Gather Before Filing:

- Last year's U.S. tax return;
- Your foreign country tax return for this tax year (if applicable): This will confirm how much tax you have already paid, and therefore, what benefits you may be eligible for on your U.S. tax return;
- Foreign wage statements;
- Account and brokerage statements (where applicable): These statements are particularly important to avoid fines and penalties from the IRS. They help to determine your obligation to report your foreign bank and financial accounts under the FBAR reporting requirements, which are dependent on how much you have in the accounts during the year and/or at year's end;
- U.S. reporting documents such as forms W-2, 1099, K-1, 1098, etc.: These documents are still needed to prepare your tax return if you work for a U.S. employer while living abroad; still receive passive income from the U.S.; or have U.S. student loans or a mortgage.

Embassy Contact Information

American Citizen Services
 U.S. Embassy
 Denver Street #3
 11th Micro District
 Ulaanbaatar 14190 Mongolia

Tel: 976-7007-6001
 Fax: 976-7007-6014
After-hours emergency number: 9911-4168
 E-mail: UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov

Warden still needed!!

We are still searching for volunteers to act as wardens in [Songino Khairkhan District](#). If you are interested, please send an email to UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov.

Correction on IDP in Mongolia

It has come to our attention that information released on our February issue is incorrect regarding Mongolian Driving license regulations. Mongolia, as a party to United Nations Convention on Road Traffic, does accept international driving permits.

To drive in Mongolia, you must carry a valid U.S. driver license and an IDP corresponding to the category of the vehicle driven, and a vehicle registration certificate.

Upcoming Holidays

May 25th, Monday – Memorial Day

Travel Warnings and Alerts

Warning

April 3, 2015	Yemen
March 3, 2015	Syria
March 2, 2015	Honduras
February 26, 2015	Chad
February 24, 2015	Algeria
February 24, 2015	Saudi Arabia T
February 24, 2015	Pakistan

Alert

February 25, 2015 Nigeria
 Potential Implications for Travel Because of Ebola in [Parts of West Africa](#)
 For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please go to the State Department [website](#).