



AMERICAN EMBASSY QUITO - ECUADOR

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American Citizen Newsletter

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New Laws Affecting U.S. Citizens Born in Ecuador

The Government of Ecuador has created new regulations regarding U.S. citizens born in Ecuador. Please be aware of these rules so that you and your family are not caught by surprise when traveling in and out of the country.

According to Article Six of the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador, all persons born in Ecuadorian territory are automatically considered Ecuadorian citizens at birth (an exception is made for children born to U.S. diplomat parent(s) in Ecuador on a diplomatic mission). Therefore, children born in Ecuador to American citizen parent(s) who are able to transmit American citizenship will be dual-nationals (American and Ecuadorian) at birth.

The first time an American/Ecuadorian dual-national child departs Ecuador, he/she must depart as a dual national by presenting a valid Ecuadorian passport. Ecuadorian Immigration will not allow dual-national children born in Ecuador to depart solely on their

U.S. passport. Therefore, all children born in Ecuador must register with the Ecuadorian Civil Registry and obtain a valid Ecuadorian passport.

In order to obtain an Ecuadorian passport, the child first needs an Ecuadorian birth certificate and a national identification card, also known as a “Cédula.”

For more detailed information on the new statutes regarding U.S. citizens born in Ecuador as well as necessary steps American citizens must take, please visit the embassy’s website using the following link:

<http://ecuador.usembassy.gov/service/living-in-ecuador/children-born-in-ecuador.html>

Safety Matters: Taxis in Guayaquil

Be cautious when using taxis in the Guayaquil area. In the past 2 months there have been several incidents involving tourists in affluent areas such as Urdesa, the Malecón 2000, and outside of the San Marino Mall. In these incidents, taxi drivers and accomplices have threatened passengers, often with guns, and have held them captive as they drove them to various ATMs to withdraw money

The U.S. Consulate General has researched several taxi services in Guayaquil in an effort to better protect American citizens in Ecuador. Based on the research of our security office, taxi services with exemplary security standards have been identified. Contact numbers can be found on the Consulate’s website under the following link: <http://guayaquil.usconsulate.gov/taxi-services.html> Customers should call the selected operator’s telephone number and request a taxi to be dispatched. The three taxi operators all provide 24-hour service, but only in Spanish.

It is important to practice personal security when selecting a taxi. Whenever possible, telephone a radio taxi rather than hailing a taxi on the street. If you must hail a taxi on the street, take note of the license plate number and take a good look at the driver before entering the taxi. Send a text to a family member or friend with the taxi make, model, and license plate number before getting into the taxi. If a taxi driver waves to you or solicits that you use their taxi, it is safest not to get in. If you find yourself involved in a robbery, be non-confrontational and cooperate with the robber. Nothing material is as valuable as your life.

Warden Conference in Guayaquil

The U.S. Consulate General will hold its next warden conference on September 11, from 10:00AM-12:00PM. The subject will be personal safety: situational awareness and best practices U.S. citizens can utilize to protect themselves and others. This conference is part of an ongoing effort on the part of the U.S. diplomatic mission in Ecuador to promote the safety of U.S. citizens visiting or residing in Ecuador.

Ambassador Heather Hodges' 4th of July Remarks

Ambassador Heather Hodges delivered an inspiring speech to hundreds of Ecuadorian government officials, Embassy employees, and official guests to commemorate the July 4th holiday on July 2, 2009 at the U.S. Embassy in Quito, Ecuador. Below is transcript of the speech.

I want to welcome all of you and thank you for joining us to help celebrate the 233rd anniversary of the independence of the United States. When I first suggested to my staff that we hold this reception on the 2nd instead of celebrating on July 4th itself, there were some raised eyebrows. However, I convinced all skeptics by explaining to them there is an excellent reason to celebrate on the 2nd. A little-known fact is that the Continental Congress declared America's independence on July 2, 1776. In effect, today is the anniversary of America's grito. So then what happened on July 4th? That's the day when the document, which we all know as Declaration of Independence written by Thomas Jefferson, was signed.

Today, 233 years later, we think back to those historic events and marvel at what it must have been like to be living through and witnessing events that altered history. That said, I think that all of us gathered here today have had a good idea of what it means to be living in such historic times. Over the past year, with the election of President Barack Obama, we have witnessed events in American history that will forever be remembered as emblematic of the ability of the United States to renew itself and change.

The then-Senator Barack Obama expressed it in another way when, at the Capitol building in Springfield, Illinois, on February 10, 2007, he announced his candidacy for President of the United States of America.

On that occasion he said, and I quote his words, "Each and every time, a new generation has risen up and done what's needed to be done. Today we are called once more -- and it is time for our generation to answer that call. For that is our unyielding faith -- that in the face of impossible odds, people who love their country can change it."

I am proud of my country. I am proud of the commitment and the spirit of my fellow Americans who have the determination to tackle challenges. I am proud, in this past

year more so than ever before, that the American people were able to persevere in the pursuit of their dreams and of our commitment to the inalienable rights included in the Declaration of Independence.

One of the main messages of U.S. elections in November of 2008 was change. Our Embassy also experienced a very important change last year with the move to the new headquarters, my arrival and the arrival of the new Deputy Chief of Mission, Andrew Chritton. I have been in Ecuador 11 months and during that time I have had the privilege of traveling extensively throughout this stunning country. I have visited or inaugurated many projects that have been funded by USAID, our Agency for International Development; by our Department of Agriculture's PL-480 program; by NAS, our Narcotics Affairs Section; and by our Military Group. I've met with Peace Corps volunteers and listened to encouraging stories about the communities they live in and the experiences they share.

In my travels I've had the honor of meeting Ecuadorians from all walks of life, inspiring people who are committed to their roots and their communities to make the change. In the short time I've been here I have managed to visit 13 out of the 24 provinces of Ecuador, and all its regions. Some of those visits were official, but oftentimes they were purely tourism to watch birds, a new interest that has helped me get closer to the incredible nature of this country. Watching four condors flying in the distance with the beautiful Antisana volcano as backdrop, was an unforgettable experience.

But Ecuador's most important treasure is people like you who have welcomed me and opened their doors. I admire you for the commitment you have to your country.

Before I finish, I want to express my personal gratitude to Alexandra Cabanilla and the Brass Band Foundation Musical Program for Children and Young Adults for performing such wonderful renditions of our national anthems.

I would also like to invite all of you to visit the USAID, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Public Affairs Section booths to learn about some of the projects and programs they are working on here in Ecuador.

I understand that many of you have not had a chance to visit the new Embassy building. We are very proud of the collection of American and Ecuadorian art that graces the walls of our Embassy and we are honored to have several of the Ecuadorian artists with us here today. I invite you to enter the Embassy for a tour of the atrium.

Finally, I want to thank all of the Embassy's employees for their efforts to support me in carrying out the mission of this Embassy. This year we bid farewell to many U.S. officials, so I want to wish them all the best. To those who remain and to the enterprising Ecuadorian employees I want to also express my deepest gratitude.

Many thanks to all and please continue enjoying the reception.

Organization Profile: VIHDA

VIHDA is a not-for-profit HIV/AIDS organization operating in Ecuador. The organization works primarily in stopping vertical mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Most of VIHDA's work is conducted in the largest Maternity Hospital in the country, located in Guayaquil, Ecuador's largest city, where about 35,000 births take place per year (about 20% of all births).

VIHDA started work in 2007 and up through May 2009, it had conducted 83,000 HIV tests on pregnant women who receive prenatal care and/or give birth at the Maternity Hospital.

VIHDA has detected 374 pregnant women with HIV; all detected mothers receive anti-retroviral treatment before birth, and all babies receive treatment after. So far all pregnant women who have undergone treatment in the program, and given birth, have had HIV-free babies. Babies need to remain under treatment and observation for 18 months post-partum until they are finally diagnosed as HIV-free, and so far the organization's success rate has been 100% at 18 months.

To work continuously with people living with HIV/AIDS, VIHDA has received help from the Guayaquil City Government to equip its day clinic, which VIHDA built with its own funds. This is the first day clinic in the country dedicated exclusively to work with people with HIV/AIDS.

To learn more about VIHDA, you may contact the founder at hmata@vihda.org.ec. Their phone numbers are (04)256-7219 or (04)256-8863. You can also visit VIHDA's website at the following URL: www.vihda.org.ec

Recent Article of Interest

Follow the below link for a brief article on one journalist's trip back to Ecuador to see the site of her parents' birthplace. Included in the article are some great photos of the Galapagos Islands! [Travel Article](#)

Jobs in the Department of State

The Department of State is hiring! As part of Secretary Clinton's initiative, "Diplomacy 3.0: Diplomacy, Development, and Defense, the Foreign Service is hiring significantly above attrition. This drive is part of a robust effort to meet the

challenges and opportunities of the current international affairs environment. The Foreign Service offers exciting career opportunities in embassies and consulates around the world. There are five career tracks open to applicants: management, economic, public diplomacy, political and consular, all providing different experiences for qualified candidates. If you are interested in starting a career in the Foreign Service, the first step is to begin the registration process (see link below). Once you have completed your registration, you can take the written test online. The U.S. embassy in Quito and the consulate in Guayaquil offer online tests quarterly.

For more information on career opportunities in the Department of State, or to register for the online Foreign Service Officer Test, check out the following link:

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

Below is a profile of a Foreign Service Officer in the Department of State:

Javier



Management

"The most rewarding part of my career is helping other U.S. Government agencies achieve their mission in the host country."

Where are you from?

El Paso, Texas



What is your current assignment?

Cotonou, Benin (West Africa)

Where were your previous assignments?

With the U.S. Department of State, I have worked in Thailand, India, and Dubai. Previously, while working in the corporate world I have worked in Italy, Spain, Mexico City and New York City.

What languages do you speak?

Spanish

What attracted you to the Foreign Service?

I wanted to reach out to the world and expose my family to other cultures.

What is the most rewarding part of your Foreign Service career?

Assisting other U.S. agencies achieve their mission in the host country.

What do you enjoy most about your role in the Foreign Service that you could not experience with any other job?

Reaching out to the world doesn't get more global than my job. I joined the Foreign

Service during the Diplomatic Readiness Initiative by former Secretary Colin Powell. I was trained and sent to do Personnel Management in the Middle East; now I am serving as Regional Financial Management Officer, supporting those in the front lines of Transformational Diplomacy in West Africa.

Hours and Contact Information

The U.S. Embassy in Quito and the U.S. Consulate General in Guayaquil provide a full range of consular and passport services for American citizens. Please [click here](#) to access Quito's website for information on opening hours, contact information and general information on services.

Please [click here](#) for Consulate Guayaquil's general information.

The U.S. Embassy in Quito and Consulate in Guayaquil are closed on Ecuadorian and American holidays. In the coming months, we will observe the following holidays:

[August](#)

10th: Ecuadorian Independence Day

[September](#)

7th: Labor Day

[October](#)

9th Guayaquil Day

Quito American Citizen Services

Notarials:

Monday - Thursday

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

All Other Services:

Monday – Thursday

1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Social Security:

Tuesday – Thursday

1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Tel: (593) (2) 398-5000 and ask the operator to transfer you to

Federal Benefits

Embassy Telephone Numbers:

Tel: (593) (2) 398-5000

Consular Section Fax: (593) (2) 398-5268

For calls concerning the arrest, injury, serious illness, or death of an American citizen after regular business hours (5:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m.), please call: (593) 398-5200

E-mail: ACSQuito@state.gov

Consulate General Guayaquil American Citizen Services

Passport, Add Pages, Birth Abroad Services:

Monday – Thursday
12:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Notarials:

Friday
08:00.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Business other than American Citizen Services

Immigrant Visas or Non-Immigrant Visas

Tel: (593) 4- 232-3570

Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ACS Telephones:

Telephone Inquiries are best in the AM hours

08:00 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Tel: (593) 4-232-3570 ext 227/228

Fax: (593) 4-232-0904

For calls concerning the arrest, injury, serious illness, or death of an American citizen after regular business hours (4:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m.), please call:

(593) 4-232-1152

E-mail:

ACSGuayaquil@state.gov

Please do not send visa inquiries to the above email address