

Warden Message: U.S. Embassy, Quito, Ecuador

Organ Donation for Residents of Ecuador

March 31, 2011

The U.S. Embassy in Quito advises U.S. citizens living or traveling in Ecuador that the Ecuadorian government has recently passed a law concerning organ donation. The new law, "Ley Organica de Donación y Trasplantes de Organos y Tejidos", was passed by the National Assembly in January and went into effect on March 4, 2011. The law provides the option for all Ecuadorian citizens or legal residents to opt into the national organ donation program upon turning 18 years old. The competent authority to record whether a person chooses to be or not to be a donor is the Civil Registry. During application for the new Ecuadorian "cedula" identity document, this question will be asked and recorded by the Civil Registry. Ecuadorians and residents may also register to be donors on-line with the Organismo Nacional de Trasplantes de Organos y Tejidos (ONTOT) at the following website: http://ontot.gov.ec/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=46&Itemid=58.

If an individual wishes to be included in the organ donation program, participation in the program will be included on his or her cedula. Parents may decide if their children will be organ donors. If an individual chooses not to be included in the program, he or she may simply reply in the negative to the question on the cedula application. According to the law, the choice not to be included in the program will not result in any "discrimination."

The law is meant to prevent the illegal trafficking in organs. U.S. citizens traveling in Ecuador who are not residents in Ecuador will not be affected by this law.

Americans living or traveling in Ecuador are encouraged to enroll with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate in order to obtain updated information on travel and security within Ecuador through the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#).

U.S. citizens should consult the [Country Specific Information](#) for Ecuador and the latest Travel Alerts and Warnings and Worldwide Caution at the [Department's website](#). Updated information on travel and security in Ecuador may also be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States or by calling 1-202-501-4444 outside the United States.

The U.S. Embassy in Quito is located at Avigiras E12-170 y Eloy Alfaro. The telephone number for American Citizen Service (ACS) inquiries is (011 593-2) 398-5000. Within the same city use the last seven digits. Add the city code for intercity telephone calls. Public call-in hours are Monday through Thursday 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. and Friday 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. For after-hours emergencies, contact the Embassy at (011 593-2) 398-5200. Appointments for ACS are available through our [website](#).

The [U.S. Consulate General in Guayaquil](#) is located at the corner of Avenida 9 de Octubre and Garcia Moreno (near the Hotel Oro Verde); telephone (011-593-4) 232-3570 during business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or 232-1152 for after-hours emergencies. For assistance in the Galapagos Islands, please contact the U.S. Consulate in Guayaquil. Anyone can follow the activities of the U.S. Embassy in Ecuador through the [Embassy website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).