



## Embassy of the United States of America

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## American Citizen Services Newsletter September 2009

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### SAFETY AND SECURITY SITUATION

We reiterate the State Department's Country Specific Information on Macedonia: The security situation in Macedonia is stable, although occasional criminal violence does occur. Americans should avoid areas with demonstrations, strikes, or roadblocks where large crowds are gathered, particularly those involving political causes or striking workers. Crime in Macedonia is low by U.S. standards, and violent crime against Americans is rare. Pick-pocketing, theft, and other petty street crimes do occur, however, particularly in areas where tourists and foreigners congregate. American travelers are advised to take the same precautions against becoming crime victims as they would in any U.S. city. Valuables, including cell phones and electronic items, should not be left in plain view in unattended vehicles. Windows and doors should be securely locked when residences are not occupied. Organized crime is present in Macedonia; organized criminal activity occasionally results in violent confrontations between members of rival organizations. ATM use is generally safe; however, travelers should take standard safety precautions.

The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to the local police and the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. If you are a victim of a crime while overseas, in addition to reporting to the local police, please contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate for assistance. The Embassy/Consulate staff can, for example, assist you to find appropriate medical care, to contact family members or friends, and explain how funds could be transferred. Although the investigation and prosecution of the crime is solely the responsibility of local authorities, consular officers can help you to understand the local criminal justice process and find an attorney if needed.

The Worldwide Caution issued for American citizens abroad by the U.S. Department of State regarding the threat of terrorist acts has been updated as of July 29, 2009. For the latest security information, Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's website at <http://travel.state.gov>, where up-to-date [Worldwide Caution Public Announcements](#), [Travel Warnings and Public Announcements](#) can be found.

## UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

The Embassy will be closed for the following holidays:

- Ramadan Bajram – Sunday, observed on Monday, September 21
- People's Uprising Against Fascism – Sunday, observed on Monday, October 12
- Columbus Day – Monday, October 12
- Revolutionary Struggle Day – Friday, October 23
- Veterans' Day – Wednesday, November 11
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 26
- St. Clement of Ohrid Day – Tuesday, December 8
- Christmas Day – Friday, December 25

## H1N1 INFLUENZA INFORMATION

Information on H1N1 Influenza is constantly being updated. For the latest information on this issue, please remember to regularly check the Department of State's official webpage on H1N1: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/pa/pa\\_4493.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_4493.html)

The official website of the Macedonian Ministry of Health <http://moh.gov.mk/> includes some information in English on H1N1 influenza.

## MACEDONIAN ENTRY AND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR U.S. CITIZENS

The following is an unofficial summary of key provisions of the Macedonian Law for Foreigners. For the most up-to-date and complete information on entry and residency requirements, applicants should contact the Macedonian Ministry of Interior or visit their website at <http://www.moi.gov.mk> where the complete text of the Law for Foreigners in Macedonian and English language can be found.

*Disclaimer:* The U.S. Embassy in Macedonia takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the information in this guide and recommends that applicants for Macedonian visas or residency also contact the nearest Macedonian Embassy or Consulate or the Macedonian Ministry of Interior at <http://www.moi.gov.mk>.

**Short trip for business or tourism:** A valid passport is required for travel to Macedonia. A visa is not required for U.S. passport holders for tourist and business trips up to 90 days during a six-month period. As of September 1, 2008, Macedonia began requiring that all foreign citizens entering the country provide proof of health insurance at the port of entry. Entry stamps are issued at airports or land border crossing points, which grant permission to remain 90 days. All foreign citizens must register with local police within 24 hours of arrival. Those staying in private accommodation or renting an apartment should register in person at

the police station nearest his/her place of residence, and should be accompanied to the station by the owner or landlord of the apartment. Hotels are responsible for the registration of the foreign guests. If the foreigner changes address in Macedonia, he or she should notify the police station where initially registered and reregister with the police station closest to the place of residence.

An unaccompanied minor U.S. citizen who enters Macedonia should be in possession a parental or guardian statement of consent to enter and stay in the country. The statement of consent must be certified by a competent authority of the country from which s/he arrives or by a diplomatic or consular mission of the Republic of Macedonia abroad.

**NOTE:** A U.S. citizen who possesses more than one passport is obliged to leave the country with the travel document used for entry into the country.

**Temporary residence:** Individuals intending to work, study or remain longer than 90 (ninety) days in Macedonia, must obtain an entry visa **prior to** their arrival in Macedonia. The practice of switching from tourist status to long-term status when already in Macedonia is no longer allowed. Those wanting to do so must leave Macedonia and apply for a long-term visa at a Macedonian Embassy or Consulate. Macedonian visas, as opposed to entry stamps, can **only** be issued at a Macedonian Embassy or Consulate in a foreign country.

American citizens resident in the United States may apply at:

**Macedonian Embassy in Washington D.C.**

2129 Wyoming Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C. 20008

Tel: (202) 667-0501

Fax: (202) 667-2131

E-mail: [washington@mfa.gov.mk](mailto:washington@mfa.gov.mk); [usoffice@macedonianembassy.org](mailto:usoffice@macedonianembassy.org)

Website: <http://www.macedonianembassy.org>

The passport should be valid for at least three months longer than the validity of the visa.

A foreigner to whom a long-term visa is issued should visit the branch office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs within 5 (five) days from the date of entry into Macedonia where the office shall issue such a foreigner a temporary residence permit within 25 (twenty five) days. In Skopje, the Sector for Foreigners is located on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of the Macedonian Radio and Television Building. The office is open Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00. The Macedonian Radio and Television Building is located at Boulevard Goce Delcev, bb; tel: (02) 311-6678 or 311-7766. Foreigners residing in Macedonia and whose temporary residence permits are about to expire, should extend their permits in the same offices.

For additional information about the conditions and procedures for visa issuance, the applicant should contact the Embassy or Consulate of the Republic of Macedonia. Using the list of diplomatic and consular missions of the Republic of Macedonia abroad (which can be found at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website at <http://www.mfa.gov.mk>), a visa applicant can choose the most convenient Embassy/Consulate to submit the visa application.

## IRS SEEKING TO ENFORCE PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE SSNs ON PASSPORT APPLICATIONS

Have you ever omitted your Social Security Number on a passport application? You should be aware that according to Section 6039E of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. S 6039E) all applicants are required to provide their Social Security Number, if they have one, when applying for a U.S. passport or renewing a U.S. passport. The instructions for both passport application forms, the DS-11 and the DS-82, advise passport applicants of the IRS requirement above and the fact that there is a \$500 penalty for failure to provide this information enforced by the IRS.

## DUAL CITIZENSHIP: IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The concept of dual nationality means that a person is a citizen of two countries at the same time. **All U.S. citizens** are required to enter and exit the United States with their U.S. passport, regardless of age and regardless of **what other nationalities they may possess. U.S. citizens who attempt to enter the U.S. with a foreign passport** may run into serious problems at the U.S. border. All persons who have a claim to U.S. citizenship should apply at the Embassy or consulates for a U.S. passport before traveling to the U.S.

The U.S. Government recognizes that dual nationality exists but does not encourage it as a matter of policy because of the problems it may cause. Claims of other countries on dual national U.S. citizens may conflict with U.S. law, and dual nationality may limit U.S. Government efforts to assist citizens abroad. The country where a dual national is located generally has a stronger claim to that person's allegiance. However, dual nationals owe allegiance to both the United States and the foreign country. They are required to obey the laws of both countries. Either country has the right to enforce its laws, particularly if the person later travels there.

If you are a dual national, it is usually best to carry both your U.S. passport and other passport when traveling. Dual nationals **must** enter and exit the U.S. on a U.S. passport. Dual nationals may also be required by the foreign country to use its passport to enter and leave that country.

Additional information on dual citizenship and advice on possible loss of U.S. citizenship can be found on the following link: [http://travel.state.gov/law/citizenship/citizenship\\_778.html](http://travel.state.gov/law/citizenship/citizenship_778.html)

## FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

The Federal Voting Assistance Program publishes the Voting Information News which is a roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP). FVAP's September 2009 issue can now be viewed on their website at: <http://www.fvap.gov/vao/vin.html>

## RENEWING U.S. PASSPORTS AHEAD OF HOLIDAY TRAVEL

U.S. citizens who will be traveling this fall are strongly encouraged to check their passports (and those of their family members) now to confirm that they have not expired. Don't let a long-awaited and well-deserved vacation become a nightmare because of an expired passport!

If your passport has expired or is nearing its expiration date, you should begin the process of applying for a new one as soon as possible in order to beat the holiday rush. As noted in the previous section, a reminder that if you are a dual national, U.S. law requires that you enter and exit the U.S. using your U.S. passport.

A passport applied for at the Embassy can take 1 to 2 weeks to process.

Minors, adults applying for renewal or for a first time U.S. passport, and those who cannot produce their current passport because it is lost or stolen, must apply in person at the U.S. Embassy in Skopje.

Please remember that children under 16 who are applying for a passport must make a personal appearance at the Embassy at the time of application, accompanied by at least one parent. Both parents are required to give their consent to the issuance of a passport to their minor child. This can be achieved by both parents accompanying their child and signing the application in front of a consular officer, or, if one parent cannot appear, have the non-appearing parent complete a "Statement of Consent" form, which must then be notarized. Notarials for this purpose can be done at no charge at the U.S. Embassy.

For more information on applying for a U.S. passport, forms (including the "Statement of Consent", form DS-3053) and a wealth of other international travel information, please visit: <http://travel.state.gov/>.



This newsletter is an unofficial and informal source of practical information for American citizens residing in Macedonia. If you have comments, questions, or suggestions, please contact the Consular Section at (02) 310-2000, or at [consularskopje@state.gov](mailto:consularskopje@state.gov). This newsletter is also available on the American Citizens Services page of our website at <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov>