

THE ANDZNAGIR

News for the American citizen community in Armenia

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For further information:

- See the [State Department's travel website](#) for the [Worldwide Caution](#), [Travel Warnings](#), [Travel Alerts](#), and [Country Information for Armenia](#).
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan, Armenia, located at 1 American Avenue, at tel. (374-10) 46-47-00 and fax (374 10) 46-47-42, Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is (374-10) 49-44-44.

From the Ambassador: Welcome to the first issue of *The Andznagir*, the newest outreach tool of the American Embassy in Yerevan! Designed to provide useful news and information about consular services to American citizens resident in Armenia, *The Andznagir* will be coming to you quarterly...if you have registered your presence in Armenia with the embassy. Please spread the word to your fellow American citizens: registration can be completed quickly and easily online at step.state.gov/step/. We hope you find *The Andznagir* worth your time, and we encourage you to send us feedback, questions, and suggestions for future topics at acsyerevan@state.gov.

All the best,
Ambassador Richard M. Mills, Jr.

Elimination of visa page additions

Effective January 1, 2016, the Department of State will eliminate the consular service of adding visa page inserts to passports. To mitigate the impact of this coming change, applicants for passport renewals at overseas posts have been receiving larger, 52-page passports since October 1, 2014, at no extra cost. Requests for adding visa pages will be accepted for current passports only until December 31, 2015. After this date, customers who run out of visa pages in their passports will need to apply for a brand new 52-page passport. While the Department of State understands frequent travelers may be inconvenienced by this change, we are phasing out visa page inserts because they pose vulnerabilities to the physical security of the passport and do not conform to international passport standards. We appreciate your understanding.

The U.S. Embassy will be closed for the following upcoming holidays—Labor Day (U.S.) September 7, Independence Day (Armenia) September 21, Columbus Day (U.S.) October 12, Veterans' Day (U.S.) November 11, and Thanksgiving (U.S.) November 26.

ACS insight of the quarter

Did you know that you have some flexibility with the name of your child when registering him/her as a U.S. citizen? In Armenia, there is no tradition of giving a child a middle name; rather, a patronymic (the father's name) typically fills that space. If, however, you do not wish your child to carry a patronymic on his/her Consular Report of Birth Abroad, simply let the consular employee know at the time of your appointment. U. S. regulations give you the opportunity to drop the patronymic in most cases. Just keep in mind that, for dual-national children, discrepancies in the names between the American and Armenian passports could cause trouble down the road...



Visa question of the quarter

I am planning to get married to an Armenian citizen: how can I take my (future) spouse to the United States to live with me? Answer: Whether you are engaged or married, you will be applying for a visa for your partner. In both cases, you start by going to the website for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service, www.uscis.gov. If you are engaged, find the I-129F form and follow the instructions to complete it and send it to USCIS with the fee and the supporting documents listed. If you are married, follow the same procedure, except use the I-130 petition. The petition



will be processed by USCIS and then sent to the National Visa Center. The NVC will, in turn, send the paperwork to Yerevan, where your spouse or fiancé(e) will be interviewed at the embassy. Among other requirements, the paperwork will need to show that you, as the American citizen sponsor, are domiciled in the U.S. and that you can financially support your spouse/fiancé(e). For further questions about these visa categories, please website: http://armenia.usembassy.gov/immigrant_visas.html

Staying safe and healthy in Armenia

As you all know, Armenia is located in a region of the world prone to earthquakes. One risk, especially for those living in tall apartment buildings, is the potential of being caught in a collapsed or unsafe building. In the event your building becomes unsafe, it is important to have planned beforehand a possible escape route and rally point for family members. For people in low-rise buildings, your safest place may likely be indoors due to the danger of downed power lines, broken gas lines and falling debris. Wherever you live, think about preparing your home for an earthquake: keep a stock of emergency supplies like bottled water, avoid hanging heavy pictures above sofas and beds, store breakables and canned goods on lower shelves or in lower cabinets, anchor tall pieces of furniture (like bookcases) to the wall, know where to turn off your gas and electricity utilities, keep a battery-operated radio and flashlights on hand. The better prepared you are, the greater the chances you and your family will survive a major tremor.

American Citizen Services Chief Ehsan Aleaziz will be leaving post at the end of this month, and we wish him well! The new ACS Chief will be consular officer Adam Colvin.

Thanks for reading our first issue! Please feel free to send us comments and suggestions for future issues! Write us at acsyerevan@state.gov. Till next time...