

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. Our email address is ACSYerevan@state.gov.

Long live the new Consular Chief!

Sadly, it is time to announce the imminent departure from Yerevan of our current Consular Chief, Frank Tu. He and his family are moving back to Washington in a few weeks. Succeeding him will be Erin Eussen, who has been in Yerevan for the past year learning Armenian. She will be taking the reins of the Consular Section in mid-July. Her previous posts have been Kathmandu, Washington, Jerusalem and Moscow. We hope you'll join us in offering her a warm welcome.

FOCUS ON: The Armenian Special Residency Permit

The American Citizen Services Unit has been receiving more and more calls from Americans stranded at the airport upon arrival with expired U.S. passports, who are attempting to enter Armenia with Special Residency Permits (SRPs). The SRP is issued by the Armenian government to non-citizens who are considered special friends of the country for the contributions they have made to the advancement of Armenia. It looks an awful lot like an Armenian passport, but it is not a travel document and cannot be used to enter the country. When travelers holding SRPs and no other valid travel document attempt to go through immigration at the airport, they find themselves stranded. Please keep in mind that the U.S. embassy has no authority to intervene in Armenian border control procedures and that we cannot offer assistance to those who are unable to pass through immigration. We are aware that some passengers with only SRPs have been able to persuade the Armenian authorities to allow them to enter the country without proper documentation, but this is not always the case. Don't put yourself in this position when it is so easy for Americans to renew their passports. **Renew your U.S. passport before you travel!!**

The U.S. Embassy will be closed for the following upcoming holidays—July 4 (U.S. Independence Day), July 5 (Armenian Constitution Day), September 5 (U.S. Labor Day), September 21 (Armenian Independence Day).

ACS insight of the quarter

What are passport cards, and should I get one? The passport card is a wallet-sized travel document that can only be used to re-enter the United States at land border-crossings or ports-of-entry by sea from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. The card provides a smaller, more convenient and less expensive alternative to the passport book for those who travel frequently to these destinations by land or sea. It is NOT valid for air travel; it CANNOT be used to enter other countries. Should you get one? If your foreign travel is mostly between Armenia and the U.S., or between Armenia and other countries, then you will have little opportunity to use it; and the answer is probably no. Keep in mind also that everything you can do with a passport card, you can also do with a passport book.



Did you know that the embassy now offers three RSS feeds to help you keep abreast of our news and announcements? To sign up, go to armenia.usembassy.gov/rss_news.html .

Visa question of the quarter

I am an American citizen, and I have petitioned for my spouse or fiancé(e) to get an immigration visa to the United States, but when I make an appointment at American Citizen Services to talk about our case, they say they can't help me. Why? There are various reasons for this. First off, while you, the petitioner, are an American citizen, the case is a visa matter, and visas are handled by a different office. We in ACS often do not have the knowledge to help you, and we have absolutely no information about individual visa cases. Second, the process is transparent, and all the details can be found online at travel.state.gov. Thirdly, Embassy Yerevan does not get involved until quite late in the visa process. Unless you have received a letter from the National Visa Center with a scheduled appointment here, the case has not yet been sent to Yerevan and no one here has any information about it. **The bottom line: don't expect assistance with visa matters at the ACS window.** Please contact the immigration visa unit by email at IVYerevan@state.gov .



No Consular Services in Nagorno-Karabakh

The Embassy is aware of a campaign to encourage tourism in Nagorno-Karabakh this summer so that ordinary citizens can give moral and financial support to the Armenian population there. In light of this, the Embassy takes this opportunity to remind American citizens of the following, which appears in the Armenia information page at travel.state.gov : Be extremely cautious near the line of contact between Azerbaijani and Armenian positions in and around Nagorno-Karabakh and the Armenia-Azerbaijan border, as intermittent gunfire continues, often resulting in injuries and deaths. **Because of the existing state of hostilities, consular services are not available to U.S. citizens in Nagorno-Karabakh or the surrounding territories.**