



EMAIL BULLETIN

VISA APPLICANTS SHOULD PLAN AHEAD, MAKE VISA APPLICATION APPOINTMENTS WITH CONSULAR POSTS IN ADVANCE

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As the holiday season approaches and world and regional events continue to unfold, the need to plan ahead for visa application at U.S. Consulates worldwide has never been more acute.

The holiday season creates some of the busiest weeks for most U.S. Consulates worldwide. At the same time, several days during the months of December and January are official U.S. government and local holidays during which time U.S. Consulates are closed or operating on reduced hours. Many posts operate with a reduced staff, as consular employees frequently take vacation and home-leave during the holidays. These factors combine to cause greater delays at U.S. Consulates during December and early January.

Regional events, such as the recent terrorist bombings in Istanbul, often lead to temporary closings at U.S. Consulates. Consulates frequently utilize such closings to reevaluate security procedures and make required adjustments to ensure the safety of Consular staff as well as visa applicants and others conducting business at the Consulate. The timing and length of such closings are impossible to predict; however, it is important that applicants be aware that such closings can and do impact the visa issuance process.

Visa applicants requiring interviews should schedule their appointments as soon as possible. Whenever possible, applicants planning a trip home over the holidays should endeavor to apply for their visas as soon as possible upon arrival in order to allow for potential delays in the visa issuance process.

Foreign nationals planning to travel over the holiday season and apply for a visa abroad may wish to contact their Tindall & Foster attorney in order to obtain more detailed information regarding visa application at a particular U.S. Consulate abroad.