

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES

American Citizens Services Newsletter

U.S. EMBASSY LA PAZ, BOLIVIA

June 2008

As a service to U.S. citizens in or traveling to Bolivia, we are distributing the American Citizens Services (ACS) newsletter for U.S. citizens. Through this ACS newsletter, the consular section provides information pertaining to consular procedures, policies, and other topics of general interest to U.S. citizens in Bolivia who have registered with the ACS Unit and provided an email address.

If you believe others would benefit from receiving this newsletter, please forward it to them and encourage them to subscribe. To subscribe to our newsletter and receive other updates, please register online by following this link:

<https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/> or

<http://lapaz.usembassy.gov/english/consular/ACS.htm#registration>

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, or would like to be removed from our email list, please email us at consularlapaz@state.gov or USCit.Services.Bolivia@gmail.com, our internet email address exclusively for U.S. citizen services.

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New Topics

INCREASE OF U.S. PASSPORT FEES AND NEW PARENTAL SIGNATURE REQUIREMENT FOR U.S. MINORS

On February 1, 2008, the U.S. Government increased its fees for certain U.S. citizen passport services. For adult applicants renewing a passport, the total fee will increase to \$75. For first-time applicants age 16 and over, the total fee will increase to \$100. The fee for minors under 16 years of age will be \$85.

Effective February 1, 2008, passport applicants who are U.S. citizen minors under the age of 16 must appear personally with their parents to establish identity, proof of citizenship and proof of relationship. For parental application permission, both parents must appear together and sign, or one parent may appear to sign and submit the other parent's notarized statement, or one parent may appear, sign, and submit primary evidence of sole authority. Minors age 16 and 17 may apply in person with their own identification, but for security reasons, parental consent may be required. If your child does not have identification of their own, a parent will be required to accompany the child and present identification.

YELLOW FEVER CARD REQUIREMENT

On March 14, the U.S. Embassy issued a warden message notifying American citizens that airlines are frequently not allowing U.S. citizen passengers who are traveling to Bolivia to board incoming flights without an international yellow fever vaccination certificate.

Due to the recent heavy rains in Bolivia, the Bolivian Department of Health and the MFA has issued a decree that travelers to Bolivia must have the yellow fever vaccination.

HAGUE ADOPTION CONVENTION RATIFICATION

On December 12, 2007, Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs deposited the United States' instrument of ratification of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-Operation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption (the Hague Adoption Convention) at a ceremony in The Hague. Remarks from the ceremony are available on the CA intranet site, as well as on the CA public web site, www.travel.state.gov, under the "Speeches and Remarks" section.

The Convention strengthens protections for adopted children, birth parents and adoptive parents involved in inter-country adoptions. Its key principles include:

- a) Ensuring that inter-country adoptions take place in the best interests of children;
- b) Preventing the abduction, exploitation, sale, or trafficking of children; and
- c) Facilitating communication between central authorities in countries of origin and destination countries.

The Hague process in the United States will require that adoption service providers show that they meet Hague standards through an accreditation process. Adoption service providers who do not meet the standards will not be permitted to provide adoption services in Hague member countries. Our Hague regulations also require transparent fees, home studies that are approved by an accredited adoption service provider, and mandatory training for prospective adoptive parents.

The United States signed the treaty in 1994. In 2000, Congress passed the Intercountry Adoption Act (IAA), the implementing legislation for the Convention. The Senate gave its advice and consent for ratification of the Convention on the condition that the United States was prepared to meet its obligations under the Convention, as provided in the IAA. We are now prepared to meet those obligations and posts will play an important role.

The United States is now a member of the Hague Adoption Convention. The Convention will enter into force for the United States on April 1, 2008, and will govern intercountry adoptions between the United States and the over 70 other Convention member countries in accordance with the provisions of the Inter-country Adoption Act of 2000 (IAA).

STATE VOTER REGISTRATION VERIFICATION WEBSITES

States and territories are making it easier to find out your voter registration status. Twenty-two states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia have web sites where a voter can check their registration status. NOTE: The website addresses are subject to change. Please check <http://www.fvap.gov/vao/stregissites.html> for updates.

- Arizona: https://servicearizona.com/webapp/evoter/select_language.do
- Arkansas: <https://www.voterview.ar-nova.org/>
- Delaware: pollingplace.delaware.gov/
- District of Columbia: www.dcboee.org/voterreg/vic_step1.asp
- Georgia: www.sos.state.ga.us/cgi-bin/Locator.asp
- Indiana: www.indianavoters.com/PublicSite/Public/PublicVoterRegistration.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1

Note: You can also check the status of your Provisional Vote.

- Iowa: www.sos.state.ia.us/elections/VoterReg/RegToVote/search.aspx
- Kansas: <https://myvoteinfo.voteks.org/>
- Kentucky: cdc.ky.gov/VICWeb/index.jsp
- Louisiana: sos.louisiana.gov/polllocator/
- Maryland: mdelections.umbc.edu
- New Mexico: <https://voterview.state.nm.us/>
- North Carolina: www.sboe.state.nc.us/
- Ohio: www.sos.state.oh.us/sosapps/elections/voterquery.aspx
- Pennsylvania: www.dos.state.pa.us/voting/cwp/view.asp?a=1206&Q=446253&sureNav=|
- Puerto Rico: www.ceeput.org/serviciosLineas/estatusElectoral/index.htm

Note: You can get a sample ballot at this site also.

- Michigan: michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1633-49313--,00.html
- Nebraska: <https://www.votercheck.necvr.ne.gov/>

Note: This site is in Spanish and you need your voter registration number to verify your status.

- Rhode Island: www.sec.state.ri.us/vic/
- South Carolina: <https://webprod.cio.sc.gov/SCSECVoterWeb/voterInformationSearch.do>
- Utah: gva1.utah.gov/elections/polling.aspx
- Virginia: www.sbe.state.va.us/VotReg/VR_Confirmation/Default.html

Note: To get this information you must have a Personal Identification Number (PIN) from the VA Department of Motor Vehicles. To request a PIN via mail, you must have a Virginia Drivers License or a Virginia State Identification Number.

- Washington: www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/lookup.aspx/
- West Virginia: www.wvvotes.com/voters/am-i-registered.php

PRIMARY ELECTION CALENDAR

The Federal Voting Assistance Program has developed, with assistance from the states and territories, the 2008 Primary Election Calendar:

APPENDIX I

2008 PRIMARY ELECTIONS BY STATE

This chart lists the 2008 Presidential and State primary election dates in all the States, the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories; primary runoff dates (if applicable); states with U.S. Senate races; number of U.S. Representative seats up for re-election; and Gubernatorial races. The General Election is Tuesday, November 4, 2008.

State	Presidential Primary (or preference)	State Primary	State Runoff Primary (If necessary)	General Election		
				Federal Offices		State Governor
				U.S. Senate	U.S. Representative	
Alabama	February 5	June 3	July 15	Yes	7	No
Alaska	August 26	August 26		Yes	1	No
American Samoa			November 18 (Governor)		1 Delegate	Yes
Arizona	February 5	September 2		No	8	No
Arkansas	February 5	May 20	June 10	Yes	4	No
California	February 5	June 3		No	53	No
Colorado		August 12		Yes	7	No
Connecticut	February 5	August 12		No	5	No
Delaware	February 5	September 9		Yes	1	Yes
District of Columbia	February 12	September 9			1 Delegate	No
Florida	January 29	August 26		No	25	No
Georgia	February 5	July 15	August 5	Yes	13	No
Guam		September 6			1 Delegate	No
Hawaii		September 20		No	2	No
Idaho	May 27	May 27		Yes	2	No
Illinois	February 5	February 5		Yes	19	No
Indiana	May 6	May 6		No	9	Yes
Iowa		June 3		Yes	5	No
Kansas		August 5		Yes	4	No
Kentucky	May 20	May 20		Yes	6	No
Louisiana	February 9	October 4		Yes	7	No
Maine		June 10		Yes	2	No
Maryland	February 12	February 12		No	8	No
Massachusetts	February 5	September 16		Yes	10	No
Michigan	January 15	August 5		Yes	15	No
Minnesota		September 9		Yes	8	No
Mississippi	March 11	March 11	April 1	Yes	4	No
Missouri	February 5	August 5		No	9	Yes
Montana	June 3	June 3		Yes	1	Yes
Nebraska	May 13	May 13		Yes	3	No
Nevada		August 12		No	3	No
New Hampshire	January 8	September 9		Yes	2	Yes
New Jersey	February 5	June 3		Yes	13	No
New Mexico	Feb 5 (DEM), Jun 3 (REP)	June 3		Yes	3	No
New York	February 5	September 9		No	29	No
North Carolina	May 6	May 6	June 24	Yes	13	Yes
North Dakota		June 10		No	1	Yes
Ohio	March 4	March 4		No	18	No
Oklahoma	February 5	July 29	August 26	Yes	5	No
Oregon	May 20	May 20		Yes	5	No
Pennsylvania	April 22	April 22		No	19	No
Puerto Rico	To Be Determined	March 9			1 Res Commissioner	Yes
Rhode Island	March 4	September 9		Yes	2	No
South Carolina	Jan 26 (DEM), Jan 19 (REP)	June 10	June 24	Yes	6	No
South Dakota	June 3	June 3	June 17	Yes	1	No
Tennessee	February 5	August 7		Yes	9	No
Texas	March 4	March 4	April 8	Yes	32	No
Utah	February 5	June 24		No	3	Yes
Vermont	March 4	September 9		No	1	Yes
Virgin Islands		September 3			1 Delegate	No
Virginia	February 12	June 10		Yes	11	No
Washington	February 19	August 19		No	9	Yes
West Virginia	May 13	May 13		Yes	3	Yes
Wisconsin	February 19	September 9		No	8	No
Wyoming		August 19		Yes	1	No

Note: This election information is current as of January 2, 2008. Check your state election website (see Chapter Three), the FVAP website (www.fvap.gov), or contact your Voting Assistance Officer for updates.

NEED MORE PASSPORT PAGES

If your full-validity U.S. passport has not expired yet, but has no blank pages left for visas, we can add additional pages for you free of charge. Barring any unusual circumstances, we can usually add pages to your passport in about 45 minutes, while you wait.

NEW CONSULAR AGENCY FACILITIES INAUGURATED IN COCHABAMBA

On March 24, 2008, the Department of State's new consular agency offices in Cochabamba were officially inaugurated. More than forty American citizens gathered at the new facilities for a town hall meeting. The new location offers a more spacious and modern setting for American citizens to receive consular services in Cochabamba. We look forward to your visit to our new office in Cochabamba, located at 1122 Pando Avenue and Plaza de la Recoleta, Saal Building, Suites B and C (First Floor). The consular agency may be reached by phone at (591) 4-448-9119 or (591) 4-448-9009 and by fax at (591) 4-411-6313.

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS AND OTHER CLOSURES

Please note that the Embassy will be closed on the following official holidays during 2008

U.S. Independence Day*	Friday, July 4, 2008
La Paz Day**	Wednesday, July 16, 2008
Bolivian Independence Day**	Wednesday, August 6, 2008
U.S. Labor Day*	Monday, September 1, 2008
Columbus Day*	Monday, October 13, 2008
All Saints Day**	Sunday, November 2, 2008 (a)
Veterans Day*	Tuesday, November 11, 2008
Thanksgiving Day*	Thursday, November 27, 2008
Christmas Day***	Thursday, December 25, 2008

* U.S. Holiday

**Bolivian Holiday

***U.S. & Bolivian Holidays

(a) When a Bolivian holiday falls on Saturday or Sunday, the host government may designate Friday or Monday as a day off at its discretion.

Continuing Topics of Interest

BOLIVIAN VISA REQUIREMENT FOR U.S. CITIZENS

The Bolivian government has announced that effective December 1, 2007, U.S. citizens seeking to enter Bolivia as tourists must first obtain an entry visa. Below is an unofficial translation of a diplomatic note received by the U.S. Embassy on November 9, 2007, from the Bolivian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This note describes the procedures for U.S. citizens applying for Bolivian tourist visas at Bolivian consulates in the U.S.

The requirements and procedures for other types of visas under Bolivian law may be different.

Please continue to direct specific inquiries to the Bolivian Embassy in Washington or your nearest Bolivian consulate (see <http://www.bolivia-usa.org/> for contact information). The phone number for the Bolivian Embassy in Washington, D.C. is (202) 232-4827 or (202) 232-4828. If you are in Bolivia, please contact Bolivian Immigration Services at 211-0960.

Unofficial translation of November 7, 2007 Bolivian Diplomatic Note:

PROCEDURES FOR TOURIST VISAS FOR US CITIZENS

"Pursuant to Bolivian Supreme Decree N. 28997 dated January 1 of 2007, the Bi-ministerial Resolution 01/2007 dated, August 31 2007, issued jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Relations and the Ministry of Government, and Directive 01/2007 dated September 17, 2007, modifying the regulations pertaining to the entry of U.S. citizens into Bolivia for tourism, the following procedures shall apply effective December 1, 2007:

GENERAL MATTERS

1. Tourist visas for U.S. citizens shall be valid for 5 years from the date of issuance. After the expiration date, the tourist must reapply for a visa and pay the corresponding fee once again.
2. Tourist visas shall allow the bearer to stay in Bolivia for 90 days in a year, except that under exceptional circumstances and with sufficient justification such stay may be extended in accordance with Article 29.2 of the Supreme Decree N. 24423 of November 29, 1996. In this case, the tourist shall apply for an extension prior to the expiration of their authorized stay in the district offices of the National Immigration Service of Bolivia.
3. The non-refundable cost of the visa shall be US\$100 (one hundred U.S. dollars).

4. The visa shall permit up to three entries, including the first entry, and the cumulative stay shall not exceed 90 days in a year.

PROCEDURES FOR APPLYING IN PERSON AT A BOLIVIAN CONSULATE

5. Reception of sworn application and required documents.

5.1 The (Bilingual) Sworn Statement for Visa Application Form may be obtained at Bolivian consulates or downloaded from the webpage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the following address:

<http://www.rree.gov.bo/docsistema/FORMULARIO%20VISA%20TURISTA%20CON%20FOTO.doc>

5.2 The application shall be accompanied by the following documents:

- Recent 4x4 [cm] color photograph without glasses.
- Passport with a validity of not less than 6 months (as established by Article 4.2 of the Bi-ministerial Resolution 01-2007).
- Hotel reservation or letter of invitation.
- Round trip ticket or trip itinerary.
- Economic solvency (credit card or cash or a current bank statement).
- Photocopy of International Certificate of Vaccination against yellow fever.

5.3 The following requirements are obligatory and cannot be waived: obligation to present the letter of invitation or the provision of a hotel reservation, the round trip ticket or itinerary, deposit slip or money order for US\$100, credit card or bank statement and yellow fever vaccination.

5.4 In the event that the tourist does not have a hotel reservation, he/she may request information about hotels in Bolivia from a Bolivian consulate. Such information is also available on the web page of the Ministry of Foreign Relations (www.rree.gov.bo), on the Consular Services link. For more information, the tourist may visit the webpage of the Vice-Ministry of Tourism of Bolivia at: http://turismo.produccion.gob.bo/index_es.php

5.5 In the case of minors, the requirement for economic solvency shall be provided by their parents or legal guardians.

5.6 In the event of an unaccompanied minor, he/she must present an official Parental Authorization and Consent Certificate duly provided by the appropriate authorities.

6. Payment of Fees

6.1 The tourist shall pay US\$100 (one hundred U.S. dollars). The payment may be made in cash, by deposit to the consulate's bank account or by money order, as indicated by the respective consulate.

7. Visa Issuance

7.1 The visa affixed in the passport of the applicant with the signature and seal of the consular official, shall be in the form of a sticker, which sticker has safety features designed to avoid tampering or forgery.

7.2 In the case of a lost passport, the visa shall be considered void and the tourist shall proceed to reapply for a new visa.

PROCEDURES FOR APPLYING BY MAIL WITHIN U.S. TERRITORY

8. In order to facilitate visa applications for those individuals who reside in areas in which Bolivia does not have a consulate or a consular agent -- within U.S. territory only (i.e., not in other countries) -- the following procedures shall apply when service is requested by mail:

8.1 The Sworn Statement for Visa Application Form shall be downloaded from the web page of the Ministry of foreign affairs at the following address:

<http://www.rree.gov.bo/docsistema/FORMULARIO%20VISA%20TURISTA%20CON%20FOTO.doc>
or may be requested from the nearest Bolivian consulate.

8.2. The applicant shall send all of the documents listed in Section 5.2 above, including the passport, to the consulate. The applicant shall include a prepaid envelope in the postal medium of his or her choice for the return of the applicant's documentation.

8.3. In the event that a requirement is missing, the consular official shall communicate with the applicant via e-mail or by telephone, in order to complete the missing documentation. Similarly, the applicant may communicate with the consulate to verify the status of his/her request.

8.4 Any additional cost incurred within these proceedings shall be borne by the applicant.

8.4 The consul shall return the passport with the affixed visa by the means elected by the applicant or utilizing the postal stamps provided by the applicant.

PROCEDURES FOR U.S. CITIZENS BOLIVIANS OF ORIGIN

9. Bolivians of origin who have subsequently acquired U.S. nationality shall not be required to obtain a visa to enter Bolivia, provided that they accredit their Bolivian origin with any of the following documents, whether still valid or expired: Bolivian identification card ("cédula de identidad"), birth certificate, family history book ("libreta de familia"), military service book, Bolivian passport, Unique National Registry ("Registro Unico Nacional" or "RUN"), consular registration identification or even the applicant's U.S. passport that shows the applicant's place of birth as Bolivia.

10. Children born in the United States of Bolivian parents, pursuant to article 36 of the Bolivian Political Constitution, are Bolivians by the mere act of settling in the national territory or registering in Bolivian consulates. For such purpose, the parents of minors up to 12 years old shall appear in

person at any Bolivian consular office to proceed with the registration of the birth of the minor, attaching a legalized photocopy of the U.S. birth certificate.

11. Adolescents older than 12 years or adults regardless of age, who are children of Bolivian parents, and who have not registered their birth in a consulate, may not avail themselves of the above benefit. Law N. 2616 of December 18, 2003 establishes that the registry of birth only may be realized through an administrative procedure at the Bolivian National Electoral Court – Bolivian National Civil Registry in Bolivia, after having realized the process of naturalization in Article 36 of the CPE before the National Immigration Service.

12. The International Vaccination Certificate for yellow fever shall also be required. Bolivian citizenship does not guarantee immunity against Bolivian endemic diseases.

La Paz, 7 of November, 2007”

LAUNCH OF THE U.S. VIRTUAL PRESENCE POST IN COCHABAMBA “ENFOQUE COCHABAMBA”

On Thursday, November 1, 2007, the United States Ambassador to Bolivia, Philip S. Goldberg, launched the United States Virtual Presence Post “Enfoque Cochabamba”. Virtual Presence Posts are a new outreach method of U.S. diplomacy that gathers all the information about the United States activities in the area, thus promoting stronger ties with important cities other than the seat of government. Virtual Presence Posts are a combination of an internet site and a team of people for a given city. You can check this Virtual Presence Post at <http://cochabamba.usvpp.gov>.

VOTING INFORMATION FOR THE 2008 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS

This is a reminder that we have entered the U.S. presidential and state primary season. Twenty primaries are scheduled for February, and the rest take place from early March through early October. We encourage you to act now so that your opinion is heard – not only in the November 2008 presidential and general elections, but also in the presidential primary and state primary elections! The official U.S. Government website for overseas absentee voting assistance is the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) website www.fvap.gov.

Generally, all U.S. citizens 18 years or older who are or will be residing outside the United States during an election period are eligible to vote absentee in any election for Federal office. This includes primary, run-off, and special elections that occur throughout the year, as well as the general election in November 2008. Some states allow overseas voters to vote in elections for state and local offices, and for state and local referendums.

Voting eligibility and residency requirements are determined by the various U.S. states, and are available on-line at <http://fvap.gov/pubs/vag.html>. Your legal state of residence for voting purposes is the state where you last resided immediately prior to departure from the United States. Voting rights extend to overseas citizens even though they may no longer own property or have other ties to their last state of residence, and even if their intent to return to that state may be

uncertain. For those who have never resided in the U.S., sixteen states, to date, allow eligible U.S. citizens to register where a parent would be eligible to vote.

To register to vote and/or apply for an absentee ballot, you can use the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). The on-line version, the OFPCA, is accepted by all states and territories except American Samoa and Guam. Voters from American Samoa and Guam must use the standard form of the FPCA. The on-line OFPCA form must be completed legibly, printed, signed, dated, and mailed to your local election officials. Your state may allow faxing to speed the process, but you will still need to send in the original by mail. Use an envelope and affix proper postage. The official U.S. Government website for overseas absentee voting assistance, www.fvap.gov, has a wealth of information about absentee voting, including the state-specific instructions for completing the FPCA form, links to state and local officials, and a downloadable emergency ballot for use by those who register in time but fail to receive an official ballot.

As a general rule, you should try to send in the FPCA so that it reaches your local election officials at least forty-five days before the first election in which you are eligible to vote --- ample time for them to process the request and send you a blank ballot. If applying for both registration and an absentee ballot, you may want to mail the FPCA earlier. One FPCA will qualify you to receive all ballots for Federal offices for the next two regular Federal elections (through 2010). However, we recommend that you submit a new FPCA in January of every year, and whenever you move, to ensure that your most recent mailing and e-mail addresses are on file with your local election officials.

Under normal circumstances, most states and territories begin sending ballots to overseas citizens 30-45 days before an election. However, if you haven't received your ballot within three weeks of your state's ballot receipt deadline, and you are required to return your voted ballot by mail, you should download, complete, sign, date, and send in a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB), available at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefwab.html>. Make sure it is witnessed if required by your state. If you subsequently receive your regular absentee ballot, execute it and return it regardless of when you receive it. Court decisions sometimes require late counting of ballots voted by election day, but received by local election officials for a specified period of time following election day.

Be an Educated Voter

Non-partisan information about candidates, their voting records, and their positions on issues is widely available and easy to obtain via the Internet. Use the links appearing on the FVAP website at <http://www.fvap.gov/links/otherlinks.html>, read your hometown newspaper on-line, or search the internet to locate articles and information.

The voting assistance officer at the consular section is also always available to answer questions about absentee voting. To contact the voting assistance officer, send an e-mail to USCit.Services.Bolivia@gmail.com.

CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR LIVING IN INTERESTING TIMES

Although we do not expect an emergency situation, it is always best to be prepared.

Emergency preparedness is important to everyone, no matter his/her nationality or location. Emergencies caused by natural disasters can strike almost anyplace on the globe. Civil disturbances can arise with little or no warning in a great many places. While we may be able to do little to prevent or control most natural disasters, and very few of us can have any influence on

civil disorders, there is much that we can do to be prepared for an emergency. This link provides some basic guidelines that you might find helpful <http://www.dhs.gov/xprepresp/>

ALL NON-IMMIGRANT VISA QUERIES SHOULD BE MADE DIRECTLY TO VISA INFORMATION SERVICE CALL CENTER

Any and all requests for non-immigrant visa (i.e. visas for tourism or other short trips to the United States) information/guidance/advice or other non-immigrant visa queries must be directed to the Visa Information Service Call Center, at [HTTP://LAPAZ.USEMBASSY.GOV/ENGLISH/CONSULAR/NIV/NIVVISASERV.HTM](http://lapaz.usembassy.gov/english/consular/niv/nivvisaserv.htm) or, if case-specific, to the visa unit at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz at consularlapaz@state.gov. Please note that we have instructed the consular agencies to refer all visa queries directly to the visa information services call center. The consular agencies have posters outside their offices for the visa information services call center and corresponding reference cards. Other than the information on how to contact the visa information services call center, no American Citizen Services employee including at the consular agencies is authorized or trained to handle visa queries. Instead, those queries must be directed to the visa information services call center.

For information regarding immigrant visas, please see our website at <http://lapaz.usembassy.gov/english/consular/immigrantvisas.htm>

Important Notice to Applicants:

The U. S. Embassy in Bolivia is pleased to announce a new 1-800 Credit Card service from anywhere in the United States for Non-immigrant Visa applicants. Callers are able to access information on Visas to the US and all the information an applicant is required to have in order to apply for a non-immigrant visa and schedule that appointment.

All applicants interested in acquiring information or scheduling appointments for Nonimmigrant and Immigrant Visas must call the Visa Information Service for these services. Operating hours for the Visa Information Service are from 0700 AM to 5:00 PM Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. To access the service, callers may use any phone to call 1-866-808-7112 from within the United States for a fee of USD\$14. Applicants can still access the service within Bolivia by purchasing a Personal Identification Number (PIN) from any DHL and call 800-100-449 to receive information and schedule an appointment.

For visa information or assistance, please consult our Web site at www.bolivia.usembassy.gov and/or contact the Visa Information Services Call Center described above. If after reviewing the information on our Web site and conferring with the Visa Information Services Call Center you still have specific visa questions, please contact the Visa Unit at consularlapaz@state.gov. Questions concerning American Citizen Services that cannot be answered by the information on the Web site or the consular agencies may be directed to the American Citizen Services Unit at USCit.Services.Bolivia@gmail.com.

NOTARIAL SERVICES – WHAT WE CAN AND CANNOT PROVIDE

We have included the following information in our monthly newsletters since September 2005 and also conveyed this to the Ministry of Foreign Relations. Because we still receive requests from U.S. citizens to legalize/certify/notarize/stamp documents for use in Bolivia and/or for

other notarial services that we legally cannot provide, we are repeating this information on notarial services.

In accordance with U.S. law and regulations, the Consular Section may provide certain notarial services in connection with documents to be used in the United States. Documents for use in Bolivia must be processed by Bolivian authorities, even if the documents originate in the U.S. The Consular Section has advised the Bolivian authorities that we accordingly will not certify documents for use other than in the U.S. Therefore, U.S. citizens who wish to present in Bolivia their U.S. birth, marriage, death or other civil documents should have those translated in the U.S. and authenticated by the nearest Bolivian Consul. Similarly, U.S. citizens wishing to marry in Bolivia and who require “certificates of singleness” may query the relevant Bolivian Civil Registry office to clarify how that requirement may be met. Some civil registry offices accept a sworn statement in front of a Bolivian judge. Please contact the relevant Bolivian Civil Registry Office for further details. For more information on notarial services provided by the Consular Section, please check our Web site at <http://lapaz.usembassy.gov/english/consular/ACS.htm>. For information on how to authenticate documents in the U.S., please consult the Department of State Office of Authentications Web site, <http://www.state.gov/m/a/auth/>.

INTERNET-BASED REGISTRATION SYSTEM

U.S. citizens who travel or reside abroad can now register a record of their trip or residence so that the Department of State and/or nearby Embassy or Consulate can communicate with and assist citizens in case of an emergency. Registration is now online, and can be accessed at: <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs>. If you are already registered with us, please re-register online so that we can update our records. Through this secure, online registration system, citizens can register and update their contact information on the Internet at any time. The website also provides citizens with up-to-date travel information customized to their unique itinerary. The data citizens provide is secured behind Department of State firewalls, accessed only by cleared personnel in Embassies, Consulates, and the Department of State, and releasable only with the U.S. citizen’s permission under the provisions of the Privacy Act.

INTERNET EMAIL ADDRESS EXCLUSIVELY FOR AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

In order to facilitate communication with U.S. citizens, we have established an Internet email address exclusively for American Citizen Services. That email is USCit.Services.Bolivia@gmail.com. Please note that “American Citizen Services” does not include visa queries or any matters related to U.S. visas. Visa questions should continue to be sent to consularlapaz@state.gov. Emails received at the American Citizen Services Gmail account that do not clearly concern American Citizen Services may be deleted without a response.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS) FORMS ON LINE

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax forms for preparing 2006 tax returns are available online at <http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html>. Please note that the Consular Section cannot provide U.S. taxpayer assistance, specifically in preparing tax returns. We also do not stock or provide tax forms given that those are now available on line. Rather, all queries should be directed to the IRS using the information at www.irs.gov.

OFFICE HOURS AT THE CONSULAR SECTION IN LA PAZ AND U.S. CONSULAR AGENCIES IN COCHABAMBA AND SANTA CRUZ.

Consular Section La Paz

Mondays and Thursdays

1:30PM to 5:00PM

Tuesdays and Fridays

8:30AM to 12:30PM, and
2:00PM to 4:00PM

(except U.S. and local holidays)

U.S. Consular Agency in Cochabamba

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

8:30AM to 12:30PM

Tuesdays and Thursdays

8:30AM to 12:30PM, and
2:00PM to 3:00PM

(except U.S. and local holidays)

U.S. Consular Agency in Santa Cruz

Mondays

9:00AM to 12:30PM, and 2:00 to 5:00PM

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

9:00AM to 12:30PM

(except U.S. and local holidays)

CURRENT TRAVEL INFORMATION

For the most current travel warnings, travel alerts, and other travel information published by the Department of State, please go directly to www.travel.state.gov. To receive this information

automatically, please register through the Internet-Based Registration System (IBRS) at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs>. More information on IBRS is provided below.

OTHER INTERNET ADDRESSES OF INTEREST TO U.S. CITIZENS

U.S. Federal Government: <http://www.firstgov.gov>
U.S. Department of State, Consular Affairs: <http://travel.state.gov>
U.S. Department of Homeland Security: <http://www.dhs.gov>
U.S. Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov>
U.S. Internal Revenue Service: <http://www.irs.gov>
Social Security Administration: <http://www.ssa.gov>; SSA Newsletter: www.ssa.gov/enews/
U.S. Selective Service: <http://www.sss.gov>.
Federal Voting Assistance: <http://www.fvap.gov>
U.S. Customs & Border Protection: <http://www.cbp.gov> (for information including importation of household pets, animal and plant health inspection, etc)
U.S. Department of Agriculture: <http://www.usda.gov> (for information on food products, food safety and inspection service).

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