

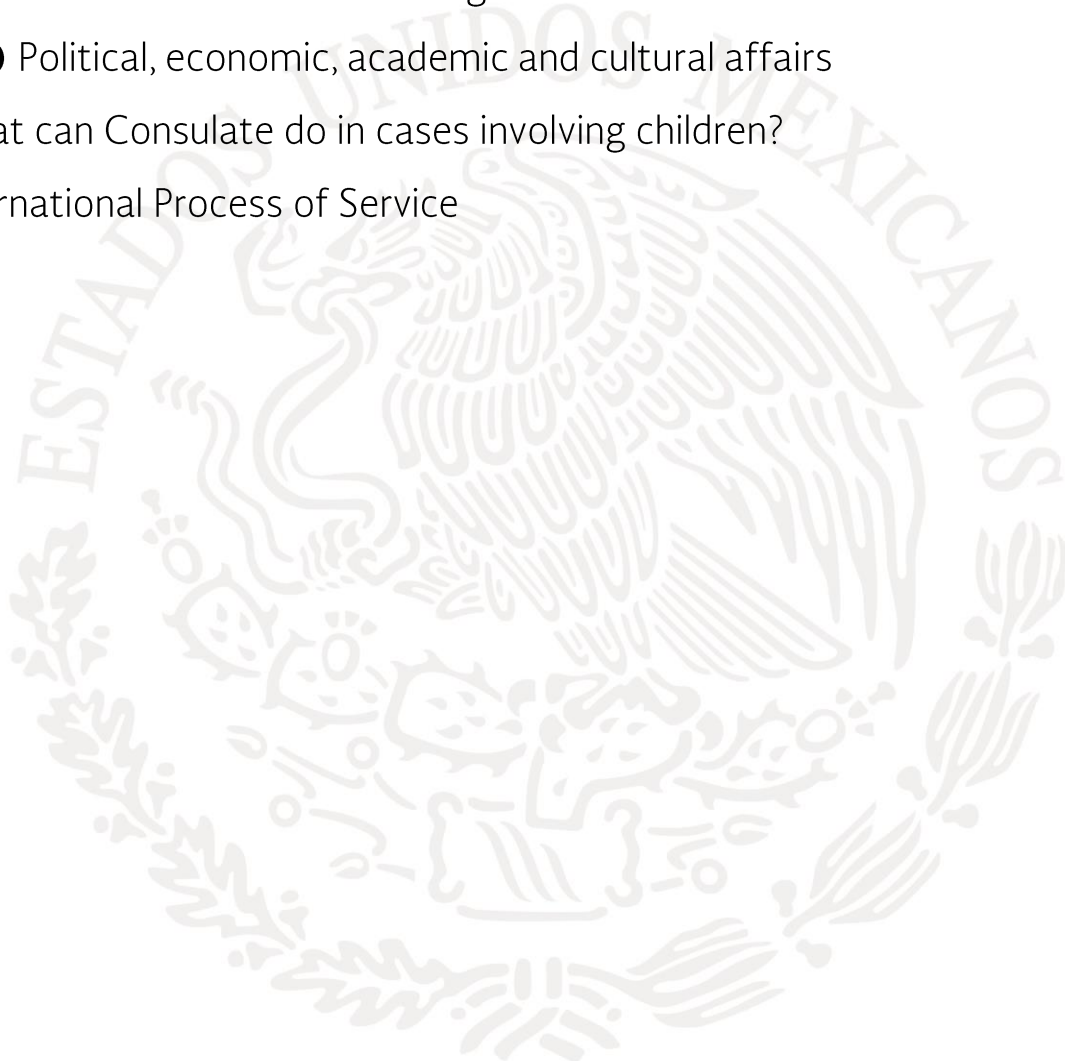
SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF MEXICO AND INTERNATIONAL PROCESS OF SERVICE

1.- Overview of the Consulate General of Mexico.

- a) Documentation Department
- b) Community Outreach Department
- c) Consular Protection and Legal Affairs
- d) Political, economic, academic and cultural affairs

2.- What can Consulate do in cases involving children?

3.- International Process of Service



Summary

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF MEXICO IN RALEIGH AND PROCESS OF SERVICE

1.- Overview of the Consulate General of Mexico.

The Consulate General of Mexico in Raleigh opened in November of 2000. Its circumscription is North and South Carolina.

The objective of the Consulate is to provide services to Mexican citizens living abroad, that go from issuance of documents to providing them legal advice and assistance. The Consulate also promotes better linkages between Mexico and the government and people of the consular district it covers, through the service of users and the promotion of business, educative and cultural exchange.

To achieve its objective, the Consulate is divided in 4 main areas of public service:

- a)** Documentation
- b)** Community Programs
- c)** Consular Protection and Legal Affairs
- d)** Political, economic, academic and cultural affairs

a) The **Documentation Department** is in charge of issuing passports, consular ID's and other documents according to the Mexican law and observing international standards and regulations. The most popular documents requested by the attendants to the Consulate are:

- Mexican Passport
- Consular ID or *matrícula consular*
- Powers of attorney (according to Mexican law)

- Registration of Mexican children, marriage between Mexican national, and Mexican birth certificates;
- Issuance of certified copies of Mexican birth certificates
- Military Service registration
- Registration to vote in Mexico (since 2/23/16)

b) The Community Outreach Department has several programs to promote our culture and reach out to find Mexican nationals willing to participate or receive information about:

- *Education:* IME Scholarship Programs, *Plazas Comunitarias* (on site education centers), Online Programs, Proyecta 100,000.
- *Financial Education:* Financial Literacy Week, Affordable Housing in Mexico, Productive projects 3x1 for Migrants
- *Ventanilla de Salud (Health Window):* Pre-emptive health, low cost health clinics, Binational Health Week.
- *Cultural Events.*

c) The Protection Department is mainly in charge of verifying that the rights of Mexican nationals are not violated, by working in collaboration with authorities, agencies or services providers, which might be able to assist our nationals, or providing them general orientation about legal and administrative processes in the U.S., and refer them to the correspondent authority. Here are some examples:

- Program of Legal Assistance (P.A.L.E.) – 9 law firms and 1 NGO
- Assistance to Mexicans that are hospitalized
- Assistance to Mexicans detained in counties jails and state or federal prisons
- Transfer of human remains to Mexico
- Humanitarian paroles
- Victims of crime support

Also, there are other processes in which the Consulate can provide assistance that are related with authorities in Mexico as:

- Children's and vulnerable individuals repatriations
- Locate Mexicans through the consular network and the offices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Mexico

2.- What can Consulates do in cases involving children?

In order to better serve our community, the Consulate has signed the *Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of the State of North Carolina regarding consular notification and access in cases involving minors*.

The purpose of this Memorandum is to identify Mexican minors and their families in order to provide services, which assure all the protections afforded by the Vienna Convention, the Bilateral Convention and all other applicable treaties and laws, including the consular notification within 10 working days of the decision to take protective custody of the Mexican minor.

Also, the Consulate can facilitate Mexican documents and/or provide the following services:

- a) Foster communication between parent/child;
- b) Locating parents or relatives in Mexico who have an open case with CPS;
- c) Request home studies to DIF and forward to CPS;
- d) Issuing consular documents such as passports, certificates of Presumption of Nationality, birth certificates, etc.;
- e) Travel assistance;
- f) School transfer document (this document grants official recognition to elementary and middle school students in order to facilitate children's placement in the receiving school according to their age and grade enrolled); and
- g) Assistance with Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

3.- International Process of Service.

Serving a person in Mexico according to the Mexican law requires that the defendant receives the copy of the complaint in hand, it does not contemplate the service through certified mail or courier service. There are two ways of serving a person in Mexico:

1.- Letter Rogatory – This judicial process must be done through formal channels that involve Authorities from both countries. From the US, the USDOJ is the one that submits the request of assistance to the Central Authority in Mexico that is the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

2.- Process Forwarding International - USDOJ awards ABC Legal the contract for service of process under the Hague and Inter-American Service Conventions. There is a \$95 USD fee to serve process under the Hague Service Convention within the USA and its Territories. The fee is payable to ABC Legal Services. There is no fee for service of process under the Inter-American Convention on Letters Rogatory. ABC Legal is obligated to perform this service free of charge. ABC Legal, acting on behalf of the U.S. Central Authority is the only recognized method of process service under these treaties and conventions.