

Precautionary recommendations for any given situation

Given the new immigration policies of the new administration of the United States of America, it is necessary to **keep ourselves well informed** and adopt immediately the following measures in order to be prepared for any outcome:

1. Process your **passport or matrícula consular** as soon as possible. Possessing an official ID is a requirement in order to complete any legal process and a form of proving your identity. You can generate an appointment through MEXITEL 1-877-639-4835 or through our website mexitel.sre.gob.mx
2. **Save the Consulate's phone numbers** and keep them handy. If you require information regarding current immigration policies, locating a detained family member or general consular assistance call CIAM at 1-855-463-6395 (available 24 hours). If you have an emergency where your physical integrity is at risk call us at 619-231-8414.
3. If you have an Android or iOS phone you can download our free app **MiConsulMEX**. With this app you will have access on how to contact the 50 Consulates located in the USA, recommendations as well as trustworthy information on current living situations in the US and advice on how to stay safe.
4. If you are driving a vehicle in California make sure to process your **driver's license**, if not, you are running the risk of getting your car repossessed. It is important to keep in mind that as of 2015, according to the Law AB60, any person living in California can apply for a driver's license, regardless of their migration status.
5. Consult a **trustworthy immigration lawyer** so he/she can go through and explain your options with you. At the Consulate we offer free counseling every Tuesday & Thursday from 8 am to 10 am with our immigration attorney's consultants. It is important to stay away from questionable lawyers and notaries who offer legal advice; in this case you may lose your money and freedom. Memorize and keep in mind the name and phone number of the lawyer who assisted you and knows your case. This way, if you find yourself in a situation where you need help you will be able to contact him/her.
6. If you children were born in the USA, **immediately register them as Mexican citizens** in the Consulate. This will allow the Consulate to protect your children as well. Create a contingency plan with your children: explain to them what measures they need to take in the case that you would be detained. In the case that you were to be detained, inform the officer that you have children that are minors. Ask a trustworthy adult to temporarily watch your children and give him/her the power of attorney in order for them to take them to school, to doctors' appointments, etc. However, take into consideration that this care is not permanent; given that if the child were to be abused or abandoned Child Services could take them into custody. If you need more information on how to register your children at the Consulate, please dial (619) 308-9918.



7. Collect and **put away your important documents in a safe place**. Share the location of these documents with a trustworthy family member as a precautionary measure. We advise you to scan and digitalize these documents, in order to keep them as backup in your email or computer.
8. If you decide or must **return to Mexico** remember that the Mexican government has a program called “*Somos Mexicanos*” that facilitates services and where development opportunities are provided. We invite you to learn more about the program by calling 1-877-210-9469.
9. If you are moving back to Mexico begin to put all of your items in an inventory, that way you can visit the Consulate and request a *menaje de casa* to import household goods and that way you will be exempt from paying taxes upon your arrival to Mexican territory [for more information call (619) 308-9934]. If for any reason you are not able to complete your inventory, you are always able to request a power of attorney in order for someone trustworthy to transport, administer or sell your belongings. In the case that you have children, process a certificate that will allow a **transfer of their studies**; this will allow their studies to be valid in Mexico [for more information about transfer documents call (619) 308-9911 or if you want to know about the new recommendations issued by the Ministry of Education visit <https://consulmex.sre.gob.mx/sandiego/index.php/avisos>].
10. If you have **bank accounts** in USA we recommend for you to utilize online banking in order to make transfers, check your statements, etc. Also, we recommend you to process a debit card that will allow you to withdraw money out of an ATM. If you have any more questions in regards to this, visit the Financial Assistance Window at the Consulate or call (619) 308-9909.
11. If you in any case were to be detained, it is important to **know your rights**: your right to remain silent and your right to contact your lawyer as well as your Consulate. Remember that immigration officers cannot enter your home unless they have a warrant signed by a judge. Don't resist or intend to run away. Don't use false names or documents or lie about your nationality. Do not sign any documents that you do not understand. Memorize a family member's phone number so you can contact them. Also, always carry your “*Mexicano: conoce tus derechos*” (know your rights) card which you can get at the Consulate.
12. We are currently living difficult times, where some people are taking this to their advantage and in some cases, racist behaviors may occur. Due to this, it is important to not fall into any provocations. Always abide by the law and inform the police of any crimes committed. Call the Consulate if you are a victim or witness any incident at 1-877-463-6395 or e-mail to: info@consulmexsd.org

Remember that you are not alone. The Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego is on your side in case you need advice or help in order for your rights to be respected.

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