

Foreign Diplomatic and Consular Representatives (Reviewed 10/16/2022) (Revised 10/16/2022)

411.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations sets forth certain rights of foreign nationals from member countries when they are arrested, detained or imprisoned by law enforcement officials in this country. This policy provides guidelines to ensure that members of the Fond du Lac Police Department extend appropriate privileges and immunities to foreign diplomatic and consular representatives in accordance with international law.

411.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Consular Officer or Consul - A foreign official authorized by the Department of State to provide assistance on behalf of that government to that government's citizens in the United States. The term "consul" should not be confused with "Counsel", which means an attorney authorized to provide legal counsel and advice. Consuls are not authorized to practice law.

Diplomat - An official of a foreign government assigned to an embassy in Washington, D.C. Diplomats may also perform consular functions, and should be treated the same as a consular officer.

Foreign national - Anyone who is not a citizen of the United States. A person with dual U.S. and foreign citizenship is not a foreign national.

Immunity - Refers to various protections and privileges extended to the employees of foreign governments who are present in the U.S. as official representatives of their home governments. These privileges are embodied in international law and are intended to ensure the efficient and effective performance of their official missions (i.e., embassies and consulates) in foreign countries. Proper respect for the immunity to which an individual is entitled is necessary to ensure that U.S. diplomatic relations are not jeopardized and to maintain reciprocal treatment of U.S. personnel abroad.

Although immunity may preclude U.S. courts from exercising jurisdiction, it is not intended to excuse unlawful activity. It is the policy of the U.S. Department of State Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) that illegal acts by foreign service personnel should always be pursued through proper channels. The host country's right to protect its citizens supersedes immunity privileges. Peace officers may intervene to the extent necessary to prevent the endangerment of public safety or the commission of a serious crime, regardless of immunity claims.

411.2 POLICY

The Fond du Lac Police Department respects international laws related to the special privileges and immunities afforded foreign diplomatic and consular representatives assigned to the United States.

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All foreign diplomatic and consular representatives shall be treated with respect and courtesy, regardless of any privileges or immunities afforded them.

The special privileges and immunities accorded foreign diplomatic and consular representatives assigned to the United States reflect rules developed among the nations of the world regarding the manner in which civilized international relations must be conducted. The underlying concept is that foreign representatives can carry out their duties effectively only if they are accorded a certain degree of insulation from the application of standard law enforcement practices of the host country.

It is the policy of the U.S. Department of State, with respect to alleged criminal violations by persons with immunity from criminal jurisdiction, to encourage law enforcement authorities to pursue investigations vigorously, to prepare cases carefully and completely, and to document properly each incident so that charges may be pursued as far as possible in the U.S. judicial system.

411.3 CLAIMS OF IMMUNITY

If a member comes into contact with a person where law enforcement action may be warranted and the person claims diplomatic or consular privileges and immunities, the member should, without delay:

- (a) Notify a supervisor.
- (b) Advise the person that their claim will be investigated and they may be released in accordance with the law upon confirmation of the person's status.
- (c) Request the person's identification card, either issued by the U.S. Department of State (DOS), Office of the Chief of Protocol, or in the case of persons accredited to the United Nations, by the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. These are the only reliable documents for purposes of determining privileges and immunities.
- (d) Contact the DOS Diplomatic Security Command Center at 571-345-3146 or toll free at 866-217-2089, or at another current telephone number and inform the center of the circumstances.
- (e) Verify the immunity status with DOS and follow any instructions regarding further detention, arrest, prosecution and/or release, as indicated by the DOS representative. This may require immediate release, even if a crime has been committed.

Identity or immunity status should not be presumed from the type of license plates displayed on a vehicle. If there is a question as to the status or the legitimate possession of a Diplomat or Consul license plate, a query should be run via the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS), designating "US" as the state.

A reference guide is available at the U.S Department of State website, titled Diplomatic and Consular Immunity: Guidance for Law Enforcement and Judicial Authorities located at www.state.gov/information-for-law-enforcement.

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411.4 ENFORCEMENT ACTION

If the DOS is not immediately available for consultation regarding law enforcement action, department members shall be aware of the following:

- (a) Generally, all persons with diplomatic and consular privileges and immunities may be issued a citation or notice to appear. However, the person may not be compelled to sign the citation.
- (b) All persons, even those with a valid privilege or immunity, may be reasonably restrained in exigent circumstances for purposes of self-defense, public safety or the prevention of serious criminal acts.
- (c) An impaired foreign diplomatic or consular representative may be prevented from driving a vehicle, even if the person may not be arrested due to privileges and immunities.
 - 1. Investigations, including the request for field sobriety tests, chemical tests and any other tests regarding impaired driving may proceed but they shall not be compelled.
- (d) The following persons may not be detained or arrested, and any property or vehicle owned by these persons may not be searched or seized:
 - 1. Diplomatic-level staff of missions to international organizations and recognized family members.
 - 2. Diplomatic agents and recognized family members.
 - 3. Members of administrative and technical staff of a diplomatic mission and recognized family members.
 - 4. Career consular officers, unless the person is the subject of a felony warrant.
- (e) The following persons may generally be detained and arrested:
 - 1. International organization staff; however, some senior officers are entitled to the same treatment as diplomatic agents.
 - 2. Support staff of missions to international organizations.
 - 3. Diplomatic service staff and consular employees; however, special bilateral agreements may exclude employees of certain foreign countries.
 - 4. Honorary consular officers.

411.5 DOCUMENTATION

All contacts with persons who have claimed privileges and immunities afforded foreign diplomatic and consular representatives should be thoroughly documented and the related reports forwarded to DOS.

411.5.1 TRAFFIC OFFENSES

An Officer who issues a citation to the operator of a motor vehicle who displays a driver license issued by DOS, or otherwise claims immunities or privileges, for violation of any state traffic law or any local traffic law shall (Wis. Stat. § 345.11(7)(b)):

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- (a) As soon as practicable, contact the DOS Diplomatic Security Command Center's diplomatic motor vehicle office to verify the operator's status and immunity, if any.
- (b) Within 10 days after the citation is issued, forward a copy of the traffic citation, at no charge, to the DOS Diplomatic Security Command Center's diplomatic motor vehicle office.

411.5.2 TRAFFIC CRASHES

Whenever a law enforcement officer investigates or receives a report of a reportable traffic crash (Wis. Stat. § 346.70(1)) in which the operator of any vehicle involved in the crash displays a driver's license issued by the federal Department of State or otherwise claims immunities or privileges with respect to the operator's violation of any state traffic law or any local traffic law the officer shall do all of the following (Wis. Stat. § 346.70(4)(i)):

- (a) As soon as practicable, contact the DOS Diplomatic Security Command Center's diplomatic motor vehicle office to verify the operator's status and immunity, if any.
- (b) Within 10 days after the date of the crash, forward a copy of the crash report, at no charge, to the DOS Diplomatic Security Command Center's diplomatic motor vehicle office.

411.5.3 DEATH, SERIOUS INJURY, OR SERIOUS ILLNESS

Officers investigating incidents in which a foreign national has died, is seriously injured, or is seriously ill, shall notify the nearest consulate of the foreign national's country as soon as reasonably possible. The notification should be documented in the incident report.

411.6 DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY TABLE

Reference table on diplomatic immunity:

Category	Arrested or Detained	Enter Residence Subject to Ordinary Procedures	Issued Traffic Citation	Subpoenaed as Witness	Prosecuted	Recognized Family Members
Diplomatic Agent	No (note b)	No	Yes	No	No	Same as sponsor (full immunity & inviolability)
Member of Admin and Tech Staff	No (note b)	No	Yes	No	No	Same as sponsor (full immunity & inviolability)
Service Staff	Yes (note a)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No for official acts Yes otherwise (note a)	No immunity or inviolability (note a)

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Career Consul Officer	Yes if for a felony and pursuant to a warrant (note a)	Yes (note d)	Yes	No for official acts Testimony may not be compelled in any case	No for official acts Yes otherwise (note a)	No immunity or inviolability
Honorable Consul Officer	Yes	Yes	Yes	No for official acts Yes otherwise	No for official act Yes otherwise	No immunity or inviolability
Consulate Employees	Yes (note a)	Yes	Yes	No for official acts Yes otherwise	No for official acts Yes otherwise (note a)	No immunity or inviolability (note a)
Int'l Org Staff (note b)	Yes (note c)	Yes (note c)	Yes	Yes (note c)	No for official acts Yes otherwise (note c)	No immunity or inviolability
Diplomatic-Level Staff of Missions to Int'l Org	No (note b)	No	Yes	No	No	Same as sponsor (full immunity & inviolability)
Support Staff of Missions to Int'l Orgs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No for official act Yes otherwise	No immunity or inviolability

Notes for diplomatic immunity table:

- (a) This table presents general rules. The employees of certain foreign countries may enjoy higher levels of privileges and immunities on the basis of special bilateral agreements.
- (b) Reasonable constraints, however, may be applied in emergency circumstances involving self-defense, public safety, or in the prevention of serious criminal acts.
- (c) A small number of senior officers are entitled to be treated identically to diplomatic agents.
- (d) Note that consul residences are sometimes located within the official consular premises. In such cases, only the official office space is protected from police entry.