



MEXICAN CONSULAR ID CARD (MATRÍCULA CONSULAR)

Uses of the Matrícula Consular:

- Proof of Mexican nationality.
- Valid form of identification for:
 - o Mexican authorities, both in our country and abroad; often used when Mexicans nationals return to Mexico or when they require consular assistance.
 - o US authorities. A wide number of federal, state, local and law enforcement agencies accept it as a form of identification.
 - o US private entities. Among them, many financial institutions which accept them to open bank accounts, among other services.

Some facts about the Matrícula Consular:

- It has no bearing whatsoever on a person's immigration status.
- It does not allow the bearer to obtain a social security number.
- It does not grant access to welfare programs.
- It does not grant access to public health programs.
- It does not prevent arrest or deportation.
- It is no substitute for a driver's license.

Procedure for issuing Matrículas Consulares:

- The applicant must comply with the requirements set forth by the law and the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as provide the required documentation.
- Consular staff carefully reviews each applicant's file and interviews him or her to verify the information to be entered into the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs database.
- The Consular ID data base is linked to the Mexican National Security data bases.
- Duplicity is avoided by the database returning possible matches for same-name entries.
- Once the applicant's data has been entered, biometrics are taken, specifically, finger prints are digitally captured and stored. The applicant's picture and signature are obtained digitally to be included and displayed on the Matrícula Consular.
- Each applicant's information is then printed onto a Matrícula Consular card, all of which are equipped with a variety of security features, in order to prevent fraudulent duplication. These features include: an Optical Security Device, used to mark the photograph printed on the card; "Scrambled Indicia", a pixel-level security feature which conceals encoded text or graphics within the visible design; ultraviolet logos on the laminate; an infrared band; high-definition bank note type on both sides of the identification card.