

Criminal Record Checks and Fingerprinting

U.S. citizens are occasionally asked to present a criminal records check in connection with a visa application to live and work in Russia. Such certifications must come from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and almost always require a fingerprint check.

Fingerprinting: As of January 2009, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is providing fingerprint services for U.S. citizens in Moscow. IOM is located near the Embassy, at 2-aya Zvenigorodskaya Ulitsa, dom 12, Metro Ulitsa 1905.

IOM normally performs fingerprinting from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. There is a \$35.00 charge for this service, which may be paid in dollars or ruble equivalent. U.S. citizens should telephone IOM in advance to confirm the hours of operation for a particular day, at (495) 797-8722, extension 210. In order for IOM to provide the service, a U.S. citizen must show a valid passport at the time fingerprints are taken. IOM will provide instructions on how to submit the cards to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and how to obtain an apostille on a fingerprint card. Please see the webpage of the US Embassy, Moscow on [Criminal Records checks](#) for more information.

FBI records check: The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) centralizes criminal justice information and provides accurate and timely information and services to local, state, federal, and international law enforcement agencies, the private sector, academia, and other government agencies. The subject of an identification record may obtain a copy thereof by submitting a written request to the CJIS. The request must be accompanied by satisfactory proof of identity (consisting of name, date and place of birth, and a set of roll-inked fingerprint impressions) and a certified check or money order for the \$18 processing fee. The FBI will not provide copies of arrest records to individuals other than the subject of the record. Requests should be directed to FBI CJIS Division, Attn: SCU, Mod. D-2, 1000 Custer Hollow Rd., Clarksburg, West Virginia 26306. If there is no criminal record, a report reflecting this fact is provided.

The FBI's CJIS Division will authenticate U.S. Department of Justice Order 556-73 fingerprint search results for international requests by placing the FBI seal and signature of a Division official on the results, **if requested at the time of submission**. Documents prepared in this matter may then be sent to the U.S. Department of State by the requestor to obtain an apostille if necessary.

Please see <http://www.fbi.gov/hq/cjisd/faqs.html> for more information on obtaining FBI records checks in the United States.

Authentication of FBI certificates of lack of a criminal record: Documents required for use in Russia require additional authentication after you obtain the FBI certificate. When you receive your FBI certificate with the FBI seal and signature of a Division official on the results you may send it to the US Department of State, which will apostille the document for you.

Please see the Department of State's webpage at <http://www.state.gov/m/a/auth/> for more information on obtaining apostille.

Please see the Department of State's webpage on [Criminal Records Checks](#) for general information on obtaining FBI criminal records checks in the United States.