



**U.S. Consulate General, Johannesburg**

**Warden Message – July 21, 2009**

**ADVISORY ON CRIMINALS IMPERSONATING  
SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE OFFICERS**

The U.S. Consulate advises all U.S. citizens of reports of impostors posing as police officers. There have been media reports of scams where males in plainclothes have posed as police officers and approached victims on foot or attempted to pull them over in their vehicles. The impostors have asked for a victim's wallet, claiming they are searching for contraband or proof of identification. The following information is guidance on what to do in the event you are approached or pulled over by criminals impersonating police officers.

**TIPS TO REMEMBER**

If you are approached on foot, a police officer must be able to produce an appointment certificate (badge) to identify himself or herself. You have the right to see the badge. If the officer does not produce identification, do not hand him or her your wallet or display your identification, walk away, or draw the attention of bystanders. In all situations where a weapon is involved, please cooperate. Your life is more important than your valuables and personal belongings.

If you are driving, do not pull over for unmarked vehicles. A popular scam has been for criminals to place blue lights on top of their vehicles or on the dashboard in an attempt to pull people over. If an unmarked vehicle traveling behind you attempts to pull you over, turn on your hazard lights and drive to the nearest police station or to a public, highly-populated, well-lit area. In any situation, a police officer should inform you why you are being pulled over or questioned. You have the right to ask why the officer has stopped you and to see his or her identification.

Please report any suspicious behavior by people representing themselves as police officers to your nearest police station and to the American Citizen Services section at the nearest U.S. Consulate. Always attempt to provide as much detail as possible about the incident (e.g. date, time, place, names, badge numbers of the police and registration numbers of the police vehicles on the scene).

All Americans in South Africa are urged to register online at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>, by phone, or in person with the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria or the Consulates General in Johannesburg, Cape Town, or Durban. Registering gives U.S. citizens access to updated information on travel and security within South Africa and makes it easier for the Embassy to contact citizens in case of emergency.

**U.S. Embassy to the Republic of South Africa**  
877 Pretorius Street  
Arcadia, Pretoria

Tel 012 431-4000 (+27 12-431-4000)

Fax 012 431-5504 (+27 12-431-5504)

<http://usembassy.state.gov/pretoria/>.

**U.S. Consulate General, Johannesburg**

(Covering Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, North West, and Free State provinces)

1 Sandton Drive (cnr. of Rivonia)

Sandhurst, Johannesburg

Tel: 011-290-3000 (outside South Africa: +27 11-290-3000)

After-hours emergencies: 079-111-1684 (outside South Africa: +27 79-111-1684).

The Consulate General in Johannesburg provides.

**U.S. Consulate General, Cape Town**

(Covering Western Cape, Eastern Cape, and Northern Cape provinces)

2 Reddam Avenue

Westlake, Cape Town

Tel: 021-702-7300 (outside South Africa: +27 702-7300)

After hours emergencies: 079-111-0391 (outside South Africa: +27 79-111-0391)

**U.S. Consulate General, Durban**

(Covering KwaZulu-Natal Province)

Old Mutual Building, 31st floor

303 West Street

Tel 031 305-7600 (+27 31-305-7600)

After hours emergencies: 079-111-1445 (outside South Africa: +27 079-111-1445).