

Springfield Resource Guide for Internationals

Welcome to Springfield. We have assembled this guide to help make your visit to our city as enjoyable and problem free as possible. We hope you will take advantage of the many resources and opportunities that are available to you here.

For further information or for questions not answered by this guide, please call the **Springfield Commission on International Visitors** at 789-2360.

Whether you are here for just a short time or a longer visit, your presence enriches the diversity of our community. Enjoy your visit.

The members of CLES

(International Visitors Seeking Cultural Learning Experiences Within the City of Springfield)

American General
The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Commission on Intergovernmental Cooperation
The Illinois State Library
Image, Inc.
Lincoln Land Community College
Memorial Medical Center
Senior Citizens of Central Illinois
Sister Cities
Springfield Commission on International Visitors
St. John's Hospital
Springfield Chinese American Association

Section 1

Language

Springfield Commission on International Visitors

109 N. 7th Street
Springfield, IL 62701
789-2362

Referrals for interpretation/translation for 34 different languages

AT & T Language Line Services

1-800-752-0093, extension 193
In an emergency, dial 1-800-528-5888 and select #3
Caller will be charged for services by credit card

Document Translations: World Ed Services, Inc.

1-212-966-6311

Provides Professional translations

English as a Second Language

Lincoln Land Community College

786-2349

1-800-666-8325

Call for information about classes

Lawrence Education Center

101 E. Laurel

525-3234

Call for information about classes.

Section 2

Telephone: Instructions and Use

The area code prefix for Springfield and surrounding communities is “**217**”. It is not necessary to dial this area code when calling locally. It is necessary to use this area code if you are calling Springfield long distance.

To find a number not listed in the local telephone directory, dial 411 or 544-1212 and then ask for the city and name of the person you are trying to reach. There is a fee for this service, billed to the phone from which you are calling.

Telephone directories are organized alphabetically and list names, addresses and phone numbers for local residents and businesses. In Springfield, the blue pages list governmental agencies, the red-tipped pages list businesses, the white pages list households and the yellow pages list businesses and services organizations alphabetically by category.

Long distance and overseas rates vary greatly depending upon which company is providing the service. Telephone the operator (O) for information about rates or purchase a phone card with low rates.

Do not dial 900 prefix numbers. Do not dial the Caribbean 809 prefix unless you are specifically calling an individual or company you know. These telephone destinations automatically bill excessive charges to the telephone number from which you are calling.

Section 3

Important Phone Numbers

In case of Emergency, call 911. Stay on the line so that police/rescue personnel can locate you.

Otherwise, contact the following:

Springfield Police Department

Non-emergency 788-8311

Sangamon County Sherriff

Non-emergency 753-6666

Poison Control

1-800-942-5969

Suicide/Crisis Intervention

525-1789

If Stopped by the Police

While Driving:

- Remain seated in the car
- Do not move around, reach for the glove compartment, etc
- In Illinois, motorists are allowed to drive slowly to a public place before stopping, when in a remote or unlit area

When outside of a car

Comply with the officer's requests

Car Accident

Write down the name, address, phone number, insurance company and driver's licenses of the other people involved in the accident. Record the year, make, model and license numbers of the cars in the accident. Get the names and telephone numbers of any witnesses to the accident.

Call the police if there is injury or damage to the car. Do not discuss the accident with the other parties involved. **Wait to talk to the police officer.** Get the officer's name, phone number and the police report number. Notify your insurance company as soon as you are able to do so.

Section 4

Housing

The “Yellow Pages” in the Springfield telephone directory lists hotels and motels. Listed below are options for emergency housing or longer-term stays (such as several weeks or months).

Contact Ministries

1100 E. Adams
Springfield, Il 62703
753-3939

Provides emergency housing referrals

Hilton Springfield

700 E. Adams St.
Springfield, IL 62701
789-1530, extension 4008

Short-term apartment rentals available

Inn at 835

835 S. Second St.
Springfield, IL 62704
523-4466

Short-term apartment rentals available

Lincoln Square Apartments

525 E. Monroe
Springfield, IL 62701
528-5400

Short-term apartment rentals available

Lincoln Tower

520 S. Second Street
Springfield, IL 62701
525-8500

Short-term apartment rentals available

Orchard Park Apartments

1516 Seven Pines Road
Springfield, IL 62704
787-2288

Short-term apartment rentals available

Springfield Department of Community Relations

Municipal Center East
800 E. Monroe, Room 108
Springfield, IL 62701
789-2270

Provides housing counseling ranging from fair housing laws, discrimination, landlord-tenant rights, home purchasing, financing and mortgage management

Leases

A lease is a written agreement or contract between landlord (property owner) and tenant (renter), which allows the tenant to use the property for a specified period of time in exchange for a set fee or rent. The lease outlines the restrictions and responsibilities of both tenant and landlord. Once the lease is signed, it serves as a legal document, or contract and can be used in a court of law if a dispute arises. Signed leases are legally binding. Be sure that your questions are answered to your satisfaction before signing and do not sign any lease until you understand it completely.

Section 5

General Help and Referrals

There are many social service organizations in Springfield and Sangamon County that provide various types of assistance.

Catholic Charities Community Services of Springfield

Crisis Assistance and Advocacy Office
1023 E. Washington St.
Springfield, IL 62703-1047
523-4551

Referrals and help with refugee/immigration resettlement issues including housing, food, medical, education, legal and more

Community Child Care Connection

1004 N. Milton Avenue
Springfield, IL 62702
525-2805
1-800-676-2805

Provides referrals to help locate childcare

Food Stamps Program (I-Link)

Illinois Department of Human Services
1-800-252-8635

Help Me Grow Hotline

1-800-323-4769

Referrals/information on women's healthcare, lead screening and dental care

Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery

1011 N. 7th
Springfield, IL 62702

525-6800

Provides emergency short-term childcare. Must call in advance

St. John's Bread Line

463 S. 5th Street

Springfield, IL 62701

528-6098

Serves free lunch and dinner Monday – Saturday and lunch on Sunday. Also provides referrals to other community services

Sojourn House

1800 Westchester Blvd.

Springfield, IL 62704

726-5200 or

1-866-435-7438

Domestic violence shelter for women and children

Section 6

Passport

The passport is a government document issued to a citizen for travel abroad, subject to visa requirements certifying the holder's identity and citizenship. It entitles the bearer to the protection of his/her own country and that of the country you are visiting.

U.S. Visa

A visa is a permit to apply to enter the United States. If needed, it is normally obtained at an American Consulate outside of the U.S. It classifies the visit as business, tourism, etc., and is usually valid for multiple visits during a specified period of time. The visa is an endorsement stamp on a passport showing that it has been examined by a U.S. Consulate Office abroad. The visa endorsement stamp is for entry only and does not indicate the length of time a visitor may remain in the United States after entry. The Immigration and Naturalization Service determines how long you may stay in the United States

The most common types of visas are:

B-1 Temporary visitor for business

B-2 Temporary visitor for pleasure/medical treatment

F-1 Student

F-2 Spouse or Child of Student

H-1 Temporary Worker

H-4 Dependent of H visa holder

J-1 Exchange Visitor

J-2 Spouse or Child of Exchange Visitor

Changes in visa classification are made at Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services
(formerly Immigration & Naturalization Service)

USINS Chicago District Office
10 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604
1-312-385-1500
INS Customer Service Center: 1-800-375-5283
Website: www.ins.gov

Consulate Offices

Listed below are the addresses and phone numbers of consulate offices in Chicago. They may be able to help with specific problems or questions regarding your visit to the United States. If you do not see an address for the consulate you are looking for, you can search for it on the internet, or call the reference desk at the public library at **753-4900**.

Consulate General of Austria

Wrigley Building, Suite 707
400 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60611
1-312-222-1515
fax 1-312-222-4113
email chicago-gk@bmaa.gv.at

Consulate General of India

455 N. Cityfront Plaza Dr. #850
Chicago, IL 60611
1-312-595-0405
website <http://chicago.indianconsulate.com>

Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia

72 E. Randolph St.
Chicago, IL 60601
1-312-345-9300

Consulate General of Ireland

400 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60611
1-213-337-1868
fax 1-312-337-1954

email irishconchicago@aol.com

Consulate General of Japan at Chicago

737 N. Michigan Ave.

Suite 1100

Chicago, IL 60611

1-312-280-0400

fax 1-312-280-9568

email cjconsular@webkddi.com

Consulate General of Mexico

300 N. Michigan Ave., 2nd Floor

Chicago, IL 60601

1-312-855-1380

fax 1-312-855-9257

Consulate General of the Peoples Republic of China in Chicago

100 W. Erie St.

Chicago, IL 60601

1-312-803-0095

1-312-803-0110

website www.chinaconsulatechicago.org

Consulate General of Ukraine in Chicago

10 E. Huron St.

Chicago, IL 60611

1-312-642-4388

fax 1-312-642-4385

website: www.ukrchicago.com

Section 7

Transportation

Springfield Capital Airport

1000 Capital Airport Dr.

Springfield, IL 62701

788-1060

website www.flyspi.com

- United Airlines – 1-800-241-6522
- American Airlines 1-800-433-7300
- ATA Connection –1- 800-435-9282

Commuter airport offering daily flights to St. Louis and Chicago

Amtrak

Washington & Third Streets (downtown)

Springfield, IL 62701

753-2013

Reservations, schedules and information 1-800-USA-RAIL

website www.amtrak.com

Springfield Mass Transit Bus System

522-5531

Routes maps can be obtained at Springfield Visitor Centers (addresses listed at the end of this guide), the Amtrak Station at 3rd & Washington Streets, Lincoln Library, 326 S. 7th Street and at many other locations around Springfield. Call the phone number above for a complete listing of routes maps locations.

AAA Cab Company

789-2780

Lincoln Yellow Cab

523-4545

Premier Cab Company

585-8577

A-Diamond Cab

788-5828

Airport Cab

741-3029

Carl's Cab

544-7856

Checker Radio Cab

525-1630

Liberty Cab

525-1982

Mid-State Cab

522-9039

1-800-Taxicab

829-4222

SmartVan

1-877-277-6278

529-4806

Service between Springfield and Bloomington and St. Louis airports

Classic Limousine

523-5466

fax 528-9183

*Transportation for hire, including in-town, airport shuttle and group transportation***F & S Limousine Service**

553-0045

1-877-284-6035

*Airport service, charters***New Century Limousine Service**

1-866-242-1719

*Airport service, business transport, charters****Section 8*****Currency Exchange**

Businesses called “Currency Exchange” in Springfield do NOT exchange foreign currency for U.S. dollars. **American Express Travel, 2621 Montega Dr., Springfield, IL 62704, 217-726-4141**, will exchange your currency via mail. The process can take several weeks. For immediate currency exchange for U.S. dollars, you must travel to St. Louis or Chicago. There is generally a charge to exchange currency.

Airport Banking Center

Lambert Airport

1701 Lambert International Blvd.

St. Louis, MO 63145

1-314-429-0044

Monday – Friday, 7:30 am – 5:30 pm

Closed Saturday

Sunday 1:00 – 5:00 pm

Usually stocks English Pounds, Euros, Mexican Pesos, Japanese Yen and Canadian Dollars

O’Hare Airport

Lower Level

International Terminals 3 & 5

PO Box 66142

Chicago, IL 60666

1-773-462-9973

aviation@ohare.com

Monday- Friday 8:00 am – 8:00 pm

Stocks many currencies including most Asian, South American and European currencies

It is advised that you call before making a trip to exchange currency to verify hours, location and availability.

Credit Cards

If your credit cards are stolen, cancel your accounts by calling the credit card company directly. You can also call the three credit bureaus in the United States and alert them that your cards have been stolen.

Experian 1-800-422-4879

Equifax 1-800-525-6285

Trans-Union 1-800-680-7289

Money

Being invited to lunch or dinner by someone does not necessarily mean that they intend to pay for your meal. If you are unclear as to whether or not you are expected to pay your own way, simply indicate your willingness to do so and the other person will either agree that you should pay separately, or they will offer to pay for your meal as well.

You are obligated to pay 7.25% sales tax on items purchased in Springfield. Your cashier will automatically add it to your bill.

In stores, prices are generally fixed and are not negotiable. Certain large purchases, such as cars and homes almost always have a negotiable price.

Tipping: In Springfield, a tip is expected by people who drive taxis, handle baggage, serve food in restaurants and wash, cut or style your hair at a salon. The general rule is 15–20% of the total bill for taxis, restaurants and salons and \$1 per bag for porters/baggage handlers.

Bills: All American bills are the same size and color. Check the denomination and take your time before paying for anything, so you don't make a mistake. Typically, most consumers use 1, 5, 10, and 20 dollar bills.

Coins: The size of the coin does not indicate the value.

Section 9

Dress

In Springfield, dress is usually casual and somewhat conservative. Americans emphasize cleanliness but may purposely wear casual or tattered clothing in public. Business casual or dressing down is a trend in the workplace, but suits for men and dresses and skirts for women are still standard attire in many offices. Women and men often wear shorts, sleeveless shirts, midriff-baring tops in public. If you wish to wear traditional clothing

from your country, it will generally be accepted. When in doubt about a situation, ask for advice about what is appropriate to wear.

Time

Springfield is located in the central time zone. Our time is one hour earlier than New York on the east coast and 2 hours later than Los Angeles on the west coast. (For example, if it is 10:00 am in Springfield, it will be 11:00 am in New York and 8:00 am in Los Angeles).

Two times each year we change our clocks for Daylight Saving Time. Daylight Saving Time begins for most of the United States (and Springfield) at 2 am on the first Sunday in April. At this time, we all move our clocks forward one hour. Time reverts to standard time at 2 am on the last Sunday of October. At this time the entire region moves its clocks back one hour.

Hours of daylight vary from season to season. The days are much shorter in winter, with the average hours of daylight falling between 9- 11 hours. Days are longer in the summer, with the average number of hours of daylight increasing from 12 – 14 hours.

Time schedules are important. If you plan on visiting someone, either socially or for business without an invitation, it is important to phone before arriving to ask if you will be welcome. Always arrive promptly for any appointment. If you do not, the host may become upset or may not be able to see you. Being late will almost always get a negative reaction. **Accomplishing tasks on time is important throughout the United States.**

Measurements

The U.S. does not use the international metric system for measuring size, weight, distance and temperature. Some common equivalents are:

1 mile = 1.6 km

10 km = 6.2 miles

1 yard = .91 meters

1 pound = .45 kg

1 gallon = 3.79 l

32 degrees F = 0 degrees C, 70 degrees F = 21.1 degrees C

To convert degrees Fahrenheit into degrees Celsius, subtract 32 and divide by 1.8.

If you are going to be doing much measuring, it is a good idea to get a conversion chart. Many Americans will not be able to tell you the metric equivalent of a U.S. measurement.

Weather

Climate

Springfield has 4 distinct seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Average winter temperatures range from 25- 30 degrees, with extreme temperatures as low as –20 degrees Fahrenheit. In the summer months, average temperatures range from 75 – 80 degrees Fahrenheit, accompanied by high humidity. Extreme summer temperatures sometimes reach as high as 112 degrees Fahrenheit.

In the winter, a heavy coat, hat, gloves, scarf and boots are essential to your comfort and health. In the summer, light clothes such as short-sleeved shirts, cotton pants, skirts, or shorts will keep you comfortable.

Driving on snowy or icy roads is difficult and hazardous. If you must drive in bad weather, remember to leave extra time and reduce your speed.

Thunderstorms and Tornadoes

This region is subject to severe weather such as **thunderstorms and tornadoes**, usually occurring in the spring and fall.

Tornadoes can generate wind speeds of more than 250 miles per hour. Thunderstorms can produce high winds, heavy rain and lightening. The National Weather Service issues tornado and thunderstorm watches and warnings when conditions are right for severe weather to develop.

Keep a radio or television on to monitor the storm's progress. Be prepared to take cover, preferably in a basement, but also in an interior room with no outside walls or windows. The city of Springfield and some surrounding communities will usually sound an emergency siren alerting you to take cover immediately when a severe storm is about to take place, however, you should not wait for the siren to sound to take cover.

Avoid driving or being outside during any kind of storm.

Emergency storm sirens are tested at 10:00 am on the first Tuesday of each month.

Section 10

Shopping

You can find anything you need from ethnic food to designer fashions in Springfield. Some places to start include:

White Oaks Mall

Corner of Veterans Parkway and Wabash Ave.
217-787-8560

Over 115 specialty stores and restaurants.

Downtown Springfield

Restaurants, gift shops, coffee shops, bookstores and drug stores in a historic setting.

Parkway Pointe

Freedom Drive and Veterans Parkway

Anchored by Target Greatland and WalMart, this shopping area offers a variety of specialty shops, restaurants and movie theaters.

White Oaks West

Iles and Veterans Parkway

Directly across from White Oaks Mall, this strip mall has several restaurants and discount shopping opportunities.

Southwest Plaza

Wabash and Veterans Parkway

Bordered by Best Buy on one end and Barnes and Noble on the other, Southwest Plaza also offers a variety of discount shopping opportunities.

The Gables

2800 Plaza Dr.

This upscale shopping plaza includes men's and women's apparel, restaurants, beauty salons and home decorating.

Fairhills Mall

Chatham Road and Monroe Street

Anchored by Jewel-Osco grocery store, this strip mall also offers several shopping and dining opportunities.

Prairie Crossing

Veterans Parkway and Prairie Crossing Drive

Meijer's Superstore, several restaurants and many car dealers are located here.

Sangamon Center North

1911 Sangamon Ave.

Located near the Illinois State Fairgrounds on the city's north side, Sangamon Center has several small shops and bookstores.

Capital City Shopping Center

3095 S. Dirksen Parkway

Shopko is the anchor store of this strip mall featuring several shopping and dining opportunities and an 8-screen movie theater.

Town and Country Shopping Center

2403 S. MacArthur

From discount apparel at Burlington Coat Factory to a unique art gallery shop, Town & country brings you several shops and restaurants to choose from.

Section 11

Restaurants

Springfield has several unique foods and restaurants that you might want to try while here.

Bentoh's Restaurant

213 S. 5th

Japanese sushi take-out

Chilli (Springfield spelling)

At one time, there were 3 different chilli canneries producing over 4 million cans of chilli per year in Springfield. Springfieldians claim to eat more chilli per year than any other community.

Some places to try chilli in Springfield:

- **Cook's Spice Rack & Chili Co.**
910 N. Grand Ave. West
429-2695
- **Joe Rogers Chilli**
820 S. 9th
522-3722

Cozy Dog

A "cozy dog" is a hot dog on a stick, dipped in batter and fried. It is also the name of a famous Route 66 diner that is the home of this invention.

- **Cozy Dog Drive In**
2935 S. 6th Street
525-1992

The Horseshoe

A special sandwich invented in Springfield consisting of toasted bread topped with meat, french fries and covered in cheese sauce.

Some places to try a horseshoe:

- **Norb Andy's**
518 E. Capitol
523-7777
- **D'arcy's Pint**
2413 S. MacArthur
726-9800

Magic Kitchen Restaurant

Serves authentic Thai food and many different flavors of pie. Bring your own alcohol and have fun waiting. Casual and inexpensive.

4112 N. Peoria Road
525-2230

Maid Rite

Special steamed and crumbled ground beef sandwiches served with home made root beer. The restaurant is unchanged since the 1920's.

Corner of Jefferson & Pasfield Streets
523-0723

Mel-O-Cream Donuts

A Springfield sweet with a loyal following. Retail shops are located at:

217 E. Laurel
525 N. Grand Ave. East
1953 W. Monroe
1814 Stevenson Dr.
3010 S. 6th
215 S. 6th

Other Springfield restaurants to try:

- ***China King***
120 North Grand Ave.
789-6908
Chinese Food
- ***China 1***
212 South Grand Ave. East

522-3900
Chinese Food

- ***China Star***
1899 E. Sangamon Ave.
789-0800
Chinese Food
- ***Chinese Kitchen***
608 S. 9th Street
527-1710
Chinese Food
- ***El Rancherito Restaurant***
1825 W. Jefferson
Mexican Food
- ***Emilio's Restaurant***
310 E. Monroe
523-7358
Mexican Food
- ***Gateway to India Restaurant***
3115 Chatham Road
726-6890
Indian Food
- ***Golden Dragon***
425 N. Grand Ave. East
753-2966
Chinese Food
- ***Holy Land Diner***
518 E. Adams St.
544-5786
Middle Eastern Food
- ***Tai Pan Restaurant***
2636 Adlai Stevenson Dr.
529-8089
Chinese Food
- ***Taste of Thai Restaurant***
3053 S. Dirksen Parkway
529-8393
Thai Food

- ***Thai Kitchen Restaurant***
620 N. 9th Street
527-1665
Thai Food
- ***Thailand Cuisine Restaurant***
3124 Montvale Dr.
787-8122
Thai Food
- ***Tokyo of Japan Restaurant***
2225 Adlai Stevenson Dr.
585-0088
Japanese Food
- ***Xochimilco***
2941 W. Iles Ave.
546-3116
Mexican Food
- ***Xochimilco***
3210 Northfield Dr.
544-9206
Mexican Food

Section 12

Visitor Centers

Check out one of the city's visitor centers for information about the Abraham Lincoln sites, the State Capitol, the Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, the Dana Thomas House, the Vachel Lindsay Home and more. Visitor Centers are located:

Lincoln Home Visitor Center
426 S. 7th
492-4241, ext. 221

Springfield Illinois Convention & Visitors Bureau
109 N. 7th St.
789-2360 or
800-545-7300

Capitol Complex Visitors Center
425 S. College
524-6620

Central Illinois Tourism Development Office
Springfield Hilton
700 E. Adams St.
525-7980

Lincoln's New Salem Visitors Center
Rt. 97
Petersburg
632-4000

Section 13

Medical

How to find a doctor or dentist

Most hospitals have physician referral services. They will generally refer you to their own doctors. You may also consult the Yellow Pages for a listing of doctors in this area. If you have insurance, your insurance company can refer you to local physicians who accept your plan.

When you make an appointment to visit a doctor, you should confirm that they accept your insurance. When you visit a doctor you will be asked to present proof of insurance before you are admitted. If you do not have insurance, or the doctor does not accept your brand of insurance, you will be required to pay for the service at that time.

Emergencies

Dial 911 and stay on the line so that you can be located and receive instructions.

Know your address

Springfield Police Department
Non-Emergency 788-8311

Sangamon County Sheriff
753-6666

Poison Control Hotline
1-800-942-5969

Suicide Prevention/Crisis Intervention
525-1789

Medical Specialists and Their Functions

Allergist: Treats patients with sensitivity to substances in the environment, for example pollen, dust, germs, pet hair.

Cardiologist: Treats the heart and heart related problems.

Chiropractor: Treats diseases by manipulating the spine and other body structures based on the theory that many diseases are caused by pressure upon nerves.

Dermatologist: Treats skin diseases or problems.

Family Physician: Treats all members of the family for general illness; will refer patient to a specialist if necessary.

General Practitioner (GP): Treats all members of the family for general illness; will refer patient to a specialist if necessary.

Internist: Treats the internal organ systems (stomach, heart, lungs, etc.) of adult patients.

Neurologist: Treats conditions of the nervous system but does not perform surgery.

Nurse: Assists the physician and provides a variety of health services in many different settings.

Obstetrician/Gynecologist: Deals with reproduction and the reproduction system of women.

Orthopedist: Treats the skeletal system; sets and casts broken bones.

Otolaryngologist: Treats the ear, nose and throat.

Pediatrician: Treats children from birth through adolescence.

Physician: Medical Doctor

Urologist: Treats the urinary tract in females and genitourinary tract in males

Listed below are several sites in Springfield where you can receive health care

Capitol Community Health Care

1101 E. Monroe
Springfield, IL 62703
544-1101

Provides primary health care to all area residents regardless of ability to pay

Care Center of Springfield

400 N. 9th Street
Springfield, IL 62702
525-5630

Pregnancy testing, physician referrals and counseling classes

Doctor's Hospital

5230 S. 6th St.
Springfield, IL 62707
Main # 522-8043
Emergency 529-7151, extension 3500

Memorial Medical Center

701 N. 1st St.
Springfield, IL 62701
Main # 788-3000
Emergency 788-3030

North Star Clinic & Urgent Care Center

1101 E. Monroe
241-7846

St. John's Hospital

800 E. Carpenter St.
Springfield, IL 62701
Emergency 525-5610
Main # 544-6464

Springfield Clinic

1025 S. 7th Street
Springfield, IL 62701
Main # 522-8043
Prompt Care 753-2273

Springfield Clinic Prompt Care West

2200 Wabash Ave.
Springfield, IL 62704
726-2273

Springfield Urgent Care

1836 S. MacArthur Blvd.
Springfield, IL 62704
789-1403

Springfield Health Department

1415 E. Jefferson

Springfield, IL 62703
789-2182

TeleNURSE 528-7541 or 1-800-444-7541

Filling a Prescription for Medicine

Check the Yellow Pages under “Pharmacies” for places to fill prescriptions. Many grocery, drug and convenience stores also have pharmacies, such as Schnucks, Jewel-Osco, Walgreens, CVS, Shopko and Target. Your insurance company may dictate where you are allowed to fill your prescription. Call your insurance company or the pharmacy to see if they accept your insurance plan.

Dental

For emergency dental care, consult the Yellow Pages or visit one of the emergency rooms or walk-in clinics listed in the medical section for immediate treatment.

Personal Safety

In case of Emergency, dial 911 and stay on the line so that emergency/rescue personnel can locate you.

As in most U.S. cities, some areas of Springfield are more dangerous than others for walking or driving. Be careful of your surroundings and ask for guidance before going out by yourself. Stay on well-traveled and lighted streets after dark, avoid parks after dark, and keep the chain or deadbolt on your door when you are in your hotel room. If you are the victim of a crime, seek medical attention if necessary, and notify the police department as soon as possible to report the crime committed against you.

Section 14

Post Office Locations

2105 E. Cook St.
Springfield, IL 62703
788-7200

411 E. Monroe
Springfield, IL 62701
753-3432
753-3646

1927 E. Sangamon Ave.
Springfield, IL 62702
788-2480

788-2481

1760 Wabash Ave.
Springfield, IL 62704
546-0463
546-0464
698-7960

Section 15

Computer and Internet Access

Lincoln Library
326 S. 7th Street
Springfield, IL 62701
753-4900

Free computer use and internet access. Must have identification to use computers

Springfield Employment and Training Center
1300 S. 9th St.
Springfield, IL 62701
782-3846

Illinois State Library
300 S. 2nd Street
Springfield, IL 62701
785-5600

Free computer and internet access. Must have identification to enter the building and to use a computer

Section 16

Public Libraries

Lincoln Library
Main Branch
326 S. 7th Street
753-4900

Lincoln Library
Southeast Branch
2500 South Grand Avenue East
753-4980

Lincoln Library
North Branch

719 North Grand Avenue East
753-4970

Lincoln Library

West Branch
1251 West Washington St.
753-4985

Section 17

Religious Organizations

Abraham Lincoln Unitarian-Universalist Congregation
745 Woodside Road
Springfield, IL
585-9550

Baha'i Faith
1131 S. 8th Street
Springfield, IL 62702
544-9595

Chinese Bible Church of Springfield
716 N. Amos
Springfield, IL
793-2787

Islamic Society of Greater Springfield
3000 Stanton
Springfield, IL 62703
529-8970

Korean United Presbyterian Church
2501 Sangamon Ave.
Springfield, IL
525-3525

St. Anthony's Hellenic Orthodox Church
1600 S. Glenwood Ave.
Springfield, IL 62704
544-7090

There are a number of Christian Churches, Jewish Synagogues and other places of worship throughout the Springfield area. Consult the telephone book yellow pages under "Churches."

Section 18

Long-Term Visitors

Counseling Services

Child Abuse Hotline

1-800-252-2873

Mental Health Centers of Central Illinois

710 N. 8th Street

Springfield, IL 62702

525-1064

Offers comprehensive mental health services

Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault

110 W. Laurel

Springfield, IL 62704

Hotline 744-2560

753-8081

Addiction Treatment Center 24 Hour Helpline

522-7445

DCFS Child Abuse Hotline

1-800-22-2873

Domestic Violence National Hotline

1-800-799-7233

Rape Information and Counseling Service

Office 744-2560

Hotline 753-8081

St. John's Parent Help Line

544-5808

Outside Springfield 1-888-727-5889

Parenting information, referrals to community resources

Sojourn House

1800 Westchester Blvd., Springfield, IL 62704

726-5200 or

1-866-435-7438

Domestic violence shelter for women and children

Clubs and Organizations

If no name or phone number is listed, please call the Springfield Commission on International Visitors office at 789-2360 for current contact names and numbers for the following clubs and organizations.

Rotary Club of Springfield

Service organization dedicated to helping the youth of Sangamon County through donations of funds and volunteer services throughout the year. Promotes student international exchange throughout the world through Rotary International.

Rotary Club of Springfield Sunrise

Organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

Sister Cities Association of Springfield

Promotes sister city relationships and cultural exchanges between Springfield and other cities internationally. Official Sister Cities are Ashikaga, Japan and San Pedro, Mexico. Contact: Rick Griminger 787-1440 (home) and 522-1212 (work).

African Community Association

Contact: Ocheng Jany, 787-8699

Asian American Society

Asian Indian Political Action

Filipino American Historical Society

Friends of Springfield Refugees, Inc.

National Image, Inc., Central Illinois Chapter

Contact: Christina Martinez, 585-0406 or cell 341-3295

India Association of Greater Springfield

Islamic Society of Springfield

Contact: 529-8970

Lithuanian American Club

Organization of Asian Americans

Contact: Elena Pilapil 787-8204

Prairie State Polish Club

Roman Cultural Society

SERTOMA (SERvice TO MANKind)

Contact: Cheryl Pence 785-7956 (w) or 546-2782 (h)

Promotes freedom and democracy and serves those with speech and hearing disorders.

Sons of Norway, Lincolnland Lodge 5-598

Springfield Jewish Federation

Contact Gloria Schwartz, 787-7223

St. Anthony's Philoptochos Society

Spanish-American Club

Contact: Dina Roncancio 529-4701

Springfield Chinese American Association

Telugu Association of Springfield and Jacksonville

Laws: Federal, State & Local

This list is by no means comprehensive. If you have specific questions or need more detailed information, ask for assistance.

- Bribes are against the law. Persons can be arrested for offering bribes. Gifts in appreciation for help from the police are not allowed.
- In Illinois, the legal drinking age is 21 and over for all alcoholic beverages including beer.
- With a blood alcohol content over .08%, driving a motorized vehicle is forbidden.
- A U.S. or international license is required to drive a car.
- You must have auto insurance to drive a car.
- Seat belt use is required while riding in the front seat of a car.
- There are special laws for transporting infants and children in cars. Special safety seats and specific positions of those seats are required depending upon the size of the child.

- Speed limits are posted along roads and highways. Not obeying the speed limit can result in a traffic ticket and a monetary fine.
- Physical abuse of a spouse or child is illegal.
- Sex with minors (under the age of 18 years of age in Illinois) is illegal.
- Buying, selling or using narcotics is illegal.
- Prostitution is illegal. Both the prostitute and the customer will be arrested.
- Smoking is forbidden or restricted in most public areas.
- Licenses are required to hunt and fish.
- The U.S. government keeps a list of men from which to draw in case of a national emergency requiring the use of armed forces. Selective Service requires registration of males between 18 and 25 who are lawful permanent residents, refugees, parolees and asylum seekers. Registration forms are available at any post office, online at <http://www.sss.gov>, or by contacting:

Registration Information Office
 Selective Service System
 Data Management Center
 PO Box 94638
 Palatine, IL 60094-6888
 847-688-6888

Legal Assistance

Legal Service Center for Immigrants

111 W. Jackson Blvd., Ste. 300
 Chicago, IL 60604
 1-312-341-1070
 fax 1-312-421-0923

Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Fund

Phone 753-3300 (must call to determine eligibility)

Offers free legal assistance and referrals for those meeting income guidelines. Must have a student visa or a green card to qualify. All others will be referred to a toll-free number in Chicago for assistance.

Travelers and Immigrants Aid

208 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1818
 Chicago, IL 60604
 1-312-660-1300

fax 1-312-660-1500

Immigration Project (English & Spanish)

1320 Neidringhaus Ave.

P.O. Box 753

Granite City, IL 62040

1-618-452-7018

1-618-452-3549

1-800-298-3235

American Immigration Lawyers Association

1-202-371-9377

Getting a Social Security Number

A social security number is necessary to work, and may be necessary to open a bank account, obtain a drivers license and for many other identification purposes. You can obtain a social security number by completing an application and showing documents that prove your age, identity and lawful alien status. To get an application, call **1-800-772-1213**; visit the website at www.ssa.gov or visit the office at:

Social Security Administration

2715 W. Monroe St.

Springfield, IL 62704

Please call the INS at 1-800-375-5283 to determine if your visa classification allows you to work in the United States.

If you have a question about whether your visa classification allows you to obtain a social security card, call the Social Security office for clarification at 1-800-772-1213.