

b. Immunities accorded to consular officers derive from customary international law or from consular conventions concluded between two or more countries. In general, consular officers are immune from local jurisdiction in respect of acts performed as part of their official duties; they are not, however, immune from criminal or civil proceedings in respect of personal acts as distinct from official acts. In most countries, the office premises (but not residences) archives and official correspondence of a consulate are considered to be inviolable.

c. If a consular officer is in doubt as to what privileges and immunities should be accorded to him or his staff, or if any question of waiving any such privileges or immunities arises, he should refer the matter to the head of the diplomatic mission or to the Department for decision. In their approach to their privileges and immunities, consular officers should be guided by the relevant sections of the Departmental Manual of Regulations and Instructions.

1.09 a. The main purpose of formal calls upon assumption of duties is to facilitate subsequent relationships which may be developed with the officials concerned. In principle, therefore, the Department favours such calls being made by the Head of a consular post upon his assumption of duties. On the other hand, in many parts of the United States where several Canadian consulates are now located, informality is the rule and official calls are often dispensed with, partially no doubt because of the size of the consular corps in the larger United States cities and because of the time which would be consumed by busy officials in returning formal calls. Hence a consular officer assuming charge of a post is authorized to use his discretion, being guided by local custom and practice.

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b. Subject to a. above, the Head of Post, whether consul-general or consul, should normally pay formal calls upon the municipal authorities of the area, such as the Mayor and, if customary, other local officials such as the Chief of Police. If the consular office is located in a state or district capital, the Head of Post should also call on the appropriate state or district officials. In federal states, calls should also be paid on such federal officials as the local army, navy, and air force commanding officers; and, if it is customary or desirable, on senior local officials of Customs and of Immigration. There is no objection to calls being made upon local religious dignitaries if this conforms to local usage.

c. In the case of consular officers who are not Heads of Post, contacts with local authorities may be made more