RELEASE, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE
TRAVEL TO HAITI

I, ______________________, am a _______ [student/employee] at Emory University. I have agreed to participate in a __________ Program in Haiti through Emory University’s __________, from ____________ , 201_ through ____________, 201_. I acknowledge that my participation in this program is entirely voluntary and is in no way required by Emory University [to complete the credit hours required for a degree].

I understand that there are inherent risks involved with my travels to Haiti, and I acknowledge and accept all of these risks, including death. These risks include travel to, within and returning from Haiti, inadequate infrastructure and public sanitation, weather conditions, local medical conditions, poor living conditions, persistent danger of violent crime, including armed robbery, homicide and kidnapping. I specifically acknowledge that the U.S. Department of State has issued a travel warning to all U.S. citizens, strongly urging them to avoid non-essential travel to Haiti. I have read and understand this travel warning, a copy of which is attached. With my signature below, I also agree that I will monitor any changes to this travel warning on my own.

I understand that I will be traveling to an area of the world with endemic diseases, including cholera. I acknowledge that Emory University has advised me to follow the applicable CDC guidelines for immunizations before and when traveling to Haiti.

I understand that Emory University does not warrant (or guarantee) in any respect the competency or mental or physical condition of any person associated with my travels abroad or the physical condition of any facility or equipment used in connection with my travel abroad. I understand that Emory University does not provide me with any liability insurance in connection with my trip to Haiti and my activities there. In addition, I understand that International SOS, which provides Emory University travelers with international medical, security and travel assistance, only guarantees that, depending on the then current political/medical climate in Haiti, it can provide medical and security evacuations on a “best effort” basis.

Further, I hereby release, covenant not to sue and forever discharge Emory University and its trustees, officers, agents, employees, students and volunteers of any and for all claims, demands, rights and causes of action of whatever kind or nature, including but not limited to negligence, unforeseen bodily and personal injuries, damage to property, and the consequences thereof, including death, resulting from my travels to Haiti and/or any travel incident thereto.
I expressly agree that the terms of this Release, Assumption of Risk and Covenant Not to Sue ("Release") shall be binding upon me and my heirs, executors and assigns, and all members of my family. I expressly agree that this Release shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia without regard to conflict of law principles. I intend this to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law and agree that, in the event that any clause or provision of this Release is held to be invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity of such clause or provision shall not otherwise affect the remaining provisions of the Release.

In signing this Release, Assumption of Risk and Covenant Not to Sue, I hereby acknowledge that I have carefully read this entire document and its attachment, that I understand and agree to comply with its terms, and that I have signed it knowingly and voluntarily.

_____________________________   ______________________________
Signature                                      Date

_____________________________
Print Name
Travel Warning
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Bureau of Consular Affairs

Haiti

March 12, 2014

The Department of State has issued this Travel Warning to inform U.S. citizens traveling to or living in Haiti about the security situation in Haiti. This replaces the Travel Warning dated August 13, 2013 and provides updated information regarding levels of crime in Haiti. While violent crime has declined, travelers to Haiti should still exercise caution.

The Department of State urges U.S. citizens to exercise caution when visiting Haiti given Haiti’s weak emergency response infrastructure. Hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens safely visit Haiti each year, but the poor state of Haiti’s emergency response network should be carefully considered when planning travel. Travelers to Haiti are encouraged to use organizations that have solid infrastructure, evacuation, and medical support options in place.

Haiti’s emergency management infrastructure remains in poor condition and inadequate. Medical facilities, including ambulance services, are particularly weak. Some U.S. citizens injured in accidents and others with serious health concerns have been unable to find necessary medical care in Haiti and have had to arrange and pay for medical evacuation to the United States. We strongly encourage visitors to Haiti to obtain evacuation insurance.

U.S. citizens have been victims of violent crime, including homicide and kidnapping, predominantly in the Port-au-Prince area, although the incidence of both homicide and kidnapping is down sharply in during the last year. No U.S. citizens were kidnapped since the issuance of the previous Travel Warning and homicides are down from 2012 to 2013. As with other countries that have high levels of poverty, U.S. citizens are urged to remain aware of the possibility of robbery. In December 2013, the Embassy learned of six cases of U.S. citizens arriving in Port-au-Prince on flights from the United States who were robbed shortly after departing the airport, a spike associated with the busy travel period during the holidays. It is recommended that U.S. citizens have their host/organization meet them at the airport upon arrival and/or have pre-arranged airport transfers and hotels. U.S. citizens are also urged to exercise caution when visiting banks in Port-au-Prince. Robbery crews have been known to surveil banks and rob customers shortly after departure. While the Government of Haiti has made progress to arrest and disrupt perpetrators, kidnapping for ransom can affect anyone in Haiti, most particularly those maintaining long-term residence in the country.

Regions of Haiti outside the capital have fewer reported incidents of crime. However, the Haitian authorities’ ability to respond to emergencies is limited and in some areas nonexistent. Embassy employees are required to adhere to certain required security and safety measures when traveling outside of Port-au-Prince, and they have restrictions on travel in certain areas or times. Additionally,
U.S. Embassy personnel are under an Embassy-imposed curfew of 1:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. and must remain at home or another safe facility during curfew hours. This may constrain the Embassy’s ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens outside of Port-au-Prince. For additional details on restrictions on staff travel within Haiti, please see our Country Specific Information for Haiti.

The United Nations’ Stabilization Force for Haiti (MINUSTAH) remains in Haiti to support the activities of the Haitian National Police. The Haitian National Police (HNP), with assistance from MINUSTAH, are responsible for maintaining order and rendering assistance. However, given the possibility and unpredictability of spontaneous protests, their ability to assist U.S. citizens during disturbances is very limited. U.S. government-facilitated evacuations, such as the evacuation that took place from Haiti in 2010, occur only when no safe commercial alternatives exist. Please see our website for additional information on how the Department of State assists U.S. citizens during a crisis.

U.S. citizens who choose to travel to Haiti are urged to review our Country Specific Information page. U.S. private sector organizations with operations in Haiti can obtain additional information on the security situation in the country through the U.S. Department of State’s Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC). OSAC’s mission is to promote security cooperation between U.S. private sector interests worldwide and the U.S. Department of State. OSAC also maintains an active Country Council in Haiti to promote the exchange of security-related information. The Council is comprised of security professionals and is co-chaired by the Regional Security Officer at the U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince and a private sector representative. U.S. private sector entities can obtain additional information on OSAC by visiting the OSAC website.

U.S. citizens are strongly urged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) in order to receive the most up-to-date security information. While the Embassy’s ability to provide emergency consular services is extremely limited, travel enrollment will enable receipt of security messages via email. Current information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the United States; callers outside the United States and Canada can receive the information by calling a regular toll-line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, except U.S. federal holidays. The Embassy of the United States of America is located in Port-au-Prince at Boulevard du 15 Octobre, Tabarre 41, Tabarre, Haiti, telephone: (509) 2229-8000, facsimile: (509) 2229-8027, email: acspap@state.gov American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit office hours are 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Consular Section is closed on U.S. and local holidays. After hours, on weekends and on holidays, please call (509) 2229-8000 and an automated attendant will connect you with the Embassy duty officer. U.S. citizens can also stay informed about conditions in Haiti by following the Embassy and ACS on Twitter and Facebook.