

## **12. CONVENTION ABOLISHING THE REQUIREMENT OF LEGALISATION FOR FOREIGN PUBLIC DOCUMENTS<sup>1</sup>**

*(Concluded 5 October 1961)*

The States signatory to the present Convention,  
Desiring to abolish the requirement of diplomatic or consular legalisation for foreign public documents,  
Have resolved to conclude a Convention to this effect and have agreed upon the following provisions:

### Article 1

The present Convention shall apply to public documents which have been executed in the territory of one Contracting State and which have to be produced in the territory of another Contracting State.

For the purposes of the present Convention, the following are deemed to be public documents:

- a) documents emanating from an authority or an official connected with the courts or tribunals of the State, including those emanating from a public prosecutor, a clerk of a court or a process-server ("*huissier de justice*");
- b) administrative documents;
- c) notarial acts;
- d) official certificates which are placed on documents signed by persons in their private capacity, such as official certificates recording the registration of a document or the fact that it was in existence on a certain date and official and notarial authentications of signatures.

However, the present Convention shall not apply:

- a) to documents executed by diplomatic or consular agents;
- b) to administrative documents dealing directly with commercial or customs operations.

### Article 2

Each Contracting State shall exempt from legalisation documents to which the present Convention applies and which have to be produced in its territory. For the purposes of the present Convention, legalisation means only the formality by which the diplomatic or consular agents of the country in which the document has to be produced certify the authenticity of the signature, the capacity in which the person signing the document has acted and, where appropriate, the identity of the seal or stamp which it bears.

### Article 3

The only formality that may be required in order to certify the authenticity of the signature, the capacity in which the person signing the document has acted and, where appropriate, the identity of the seal or stamp which it bears, is the addition of the certificate described in Article 4, issued by the competent authority of the State from which the document emanates.

However, the formality mentioned in the preceding paragraph cannot be required when either the laws, regulations, or practice in force in the State where the document is produced or an agreement between

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<sup>1</sup> This Convention, including related materials, is accessible on the website of the Hague Conference on Private International Law ([www.hcch.net](http://www.hcch.net)), under "Conventions" or under the "Apostille Section". For the full history of the Convention, see Hague Conference on Private International Law, *Actes et documents de la Neuvième session (1960)*, Tome II, *Légalisation* (193 pp.).

two or more Contracting States have abolished or simplified it, or exempt the document itself from legalisation.

#### Article 4

The certificate referred to in the first paragraph of Article 3 shall be placed on the document itself or on an "*allonge*"; it shall be in the form of the model annexed to the present Convention.

It may, however, be drawn up in the official language of the authority which issues it. The standard terms appearing therein may be in a second language also. The title "Apostille (Convention de La Haye du 5 octobre 1961)" shall be in the French language.

#### Article 5

The certificate shall be issued at the request of the person who has signed the document or of any bearer.

When properly filled in, it will certify the authenticity of the signature, the capacity in which the person signing the document has acted and, where appropriate, the identity of the seal or stamp which the document bears.

The signature, seal and stamp on the certificate are exempt from all certification.

#### Article 6

Each Contracting State shall designate by reference to their official function, the authorities who are competent to issue the certificate referred to in the first paragraph of Article 3.

It shall give notice of such designation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands at the time it deposits its instrument of ratification or of accession or its declaration of extension. It shall also give notice of any change in the designated authorities.

#### Article 7

Each of the authorities designated in accordance with Article 6 shall keep a register or card index in which it shall record the certificates issued, specifying:

- a) the number and date of the certificate,
- b) the name of the person signing the public document and the capacity in which he has acted, or in the case of unsigned documents, the name of the authority which has affixed the seal or stamp.

At the request of any interested person, the authority which has issued the certificate shall verify whether the particulars in the certificate correspond with those in the register or card index.

#### Article 8

When a treaty, convention or agreement between two or more Contracting States contains provisions which subject the certification of a signature, seal or stamp to certain formalities, the present Convention will only override such provisions if those formalities are more rigorous than the formality referred to in Articles 3 and 4.

#### Article 9

Each Contracting State shall take the necessary steps to prevent the performance of legalisations by its diplomatic or consular agents in cases where the present Convention provides for exemption.

#### Article 10

The present Convention shall be open for signature by the States represented at the Ninth Session of the Hague Conference on Private International Law and Iceland, Ireland, Liechtenstein and Turkey. It shall be ratified, and the instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

#### Article 11

The present Convention shall enter into force on the sixtieth day after the deposit of the third instrument of ratification referred to in the second paragraph of Article 10.

The Convention shall enter into force for each signatory State which ratifies subsequently on the sixtieth day after the deposit of its instrument of ratification.

#### Article 12

Any State not referred to in Article 10 may accede to the present Convention after it has entered into force in accordance with the first paragraph of Article 11. The instrument of accession shall be deposited with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

Such accession shall have effect only as regards the relations between the acceding State and those Contracting States which have not raised an objection to its accession in the six months after the receipt of the notification referred to in sub-paragraph *d*) of Article 15. Any such objection shall be notified to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

The Convention shall enter into force as between the acceding State and the States which have raised no objection to its accession on the sixtieth day after the expiry of the period of six months mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

#### Article 13

Any State may, at the time of signature, ratification or accession, declare that the present Convention shall extend to all the territories for the international relations of which it is responsible, or to one or more of them. Such a declaration shall take effect on the date of entry into force of the Convention for the State concerned.

At any time thereafter, such extensions shall be notified to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

When the declaration of extension is made by a State which has signed and ratified, the Convention shall enter into force for the territories concerned in accordance with Article 11. When the declaration of extension is made by a State which has acceded, the Convention shall enter into force for the territories concerned in accordance with Article 12.

#### Article 14

The present Convention shall remain in force for five years from the date of its entry into force in accordance with the first paragraph of Article 11, even for States which have ratified it or acceded to it subsequently.

If there has been no denunciation, the Convention shall be renewed tacitly every five years.

Any denunciation shall be notified to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands at least six months before the end of the five year period.

It may be limited to certain of the territories to which the Convention applies.

The denunciation will only have effect as regards the State which has notified it. The Convention shall remain in force for the other Contracting States.

#### Article 15

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands shall give notice to the States referred to in Article 10, and to the States which have acceded in accordance with Article 12, of the following:

- a)* the notifications referred to in the second paragraph of Article 6;
- b)* the signatures and ratifications referred to in Article 10;
- c)* the date on which the present Convention enters into force in accordance with the first paragraph of Article 11;
- d)* the accessions and objections referred to in Article 12 and the date on which such accessions take effect;
- e)* the extensions referred to in Article 13 and the date on which they take effect;
- f)* the denunciations referred to in the third paragraph of Article 14.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed the present Convention.

Done at The Hague the 5th October 1961, in French and in English, the French text prevailing in case of divergence between the two texts, in a single copy which shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the Netherlands, and of which a certified copy shall be sent, through the diplomatic channel, to each of the States represented at the Ninth Session of the Hague Conference on Private International Law and also to Iceland, Ireland, Liechtenstein and Turkey.

## DETAILS

# United States of America - Competent Authority (Art. 6)

### Designated Competent Authority (ies):

The United States of America has competent authorities to issue the apostille certificate. The US Department of State Authentication Office affixes apostles to documents issued by Federal agencies of the United States.

The US Department of State, Office of Consular Affairs, Passport Services, Vital Records Section affixes apostles to Consular Reports of Birth, Death and Marriage of US Citizens and Government .

The Clerks and Deputy Clerks of the United States of America are authorized to issue apostles on documents issued by those courts. As an alternative, the US Department of Justice may authenticate the US Department of State's Authentications Office for an apostille on that seal.

Public documents issued by US states, the District of Columbia and other US jurisdictions may be legalized with an apostille by designated authorities in any jurisdiction, generally the state Secretary of State's office.

*I. Authentication Officer, Acting Authentication Officer and Assistant Authentication Officer, United States Department of State.*

### Contact details:

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| Address:   | <i>Authentication Officer, Acting Authentication Officer and Assistant Authentication Officer, United States Department of State:<br/>518 23rd Street NW<br/>WASHINGTON, DC 20520<br/>United States of America</i>   |
| Telephone:   | +1 (202) 485-8000  |
| Fax machine:   | +1 (202) 663-3636  |
| Contact persons:   | Denitra T. Hawkins,<br>Fernesia T. Crawford Authentication Officer, Assistant Assistant Officer<br>Patrick O. Hatchett, Assistant Authentication Officer,<br>Sonya N. Johnson, Assistant Authentication Officer,<br>Joan C. Hampton, Assistant Authentication Officer,<br>Annie R. Maddux, Assistant Authentication Officer  |
| E-mail:<br>General website (see also<br>"Practical Information") : | <i>Department of State: <a href="https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/travel-legal-considerations/international-judicial-assistance/assst/authentications-and-apostilles/requesting-authentication-services.html">https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/travel-legal-considerations/international-judicial-assst/authentications-and-apostilles/requesting-authentication-services.html</a><br/>National Association of Secretaries of State, Notary Public Administrators Section ( <a href="http://www.nass.org">www.nass.org</a> ) .</i> |

*II. All clerks and deputy clerks for the following:*

Supreme Court of the United States

United States Court of Claims

US Court of Customs and Patent Appeals

United States Court of International Trade

United States Courts of Appeals for the following circuits:

District of Columbia Circuit

First Circuit

Second Circuit

Third Circuit

Fourth Circuit  
Fifth Circuit  
Sixth Circuit  
Seventh Circuit  
Eighth Circuit  
Ninth Circuit  
Tenth Circuit  
Eleventh Circuit

United States District Courts for the following districts:

Middle District of Alabama  
Northern District of Alabama  
Southern District of Alabama  
District of Alaska  
District of Arizona  
Eastern District of Arkansas  
Western District of Arkansas  
Central District of California  
Eastern District of California  
Northern District of California  
Southern District California  
District of Colorado  
District of Connecticut  
District of Delaware  
District of Columbia  
Middle District of Florida  
Northern District of Florida  
Southern District of Florida  
Middle District of Georgia \*  
Northern District of Georgia \*  
Southern District of Georgia \*  
District of Hawaii  
District of Idaho  
Central District of Illinois  
Northern District of Illinois  
Southern District of Illinois  
Northern District of Indiana  
Southern District of Indiana  
Northern District of Iowa  
Southern District of Iowa  
District of Kansas  
Eastern District of Kentucky  
Western District of Kentucky  
Eastern District of Louisiana  
Middle District of Louisiana  
Western District of Louisiana  
District of Maine  
District of Maryland  
District of Massachusetts  
Eastern District of Michigan  
Western District of Michigan,  
District of Minnesota  
Northern District of Mississippi  
Southern District of Mississippi  
Eastern District of Missouri  
Western District of Missouri  
District of Montana  
District of Nebraska  
District of Nevada

District of New Hampshire  
 District of New Jersey  
 District of New Mexico  
 Eastern District of New York  
 Northern District of New York  
 Southern District of New York  
 Western District of New York  
 Eastern District of North Carolina  
 Middle District of North Carolina  
 Western District of North Carolina  
 District of North Dakota  
 Northern District of Ohio  
 Southern District of Ohio  
 Eastern District of Oklahoma  
 Northern District of Oklahoma  
 Western District of Oklahoma  
 District of Oregon  
 Eastern District of Pennsylvania,  
 Middle District of Pennsylvania  
 Western District of Pennsylvania  
 District of Puerto Rico  
 District of Rhode Island  
 District of South Carolina  
 District of South Dakota  
 Eastern District of Tennessee  
 Middle District of Tennessee  
 Western District of Tennessee  
 Western District of Texas  
 Southern District of Texas  
 Southern District of Texas  
 Western District of Texas  
 District of Utah  
 District of Vermont  
 Eastern District of Virginia  
 Western District of Virginia (W)  
 Eastern District of Washington  
 Western District of Washington Western  
 District of Western Virginia  
 Southern District of Western Virginia  
 Western District of Wisconsin  
 Western District of Wisconsin  
 District of Wyoming

District Courts for the following territories:

The  
 District Court of Guam  
 District Court District Court of Guam District Court  
 District Court of the Virgin Islands

A short, all-encompassing and more manageable description for **II** would be:

"Clerks and deputy clerks of the United States : the Supreme Court of the United States, the Courts of Appeals for the First through the Eleventh Circuits and the District of Columbia Circuit, the United States District Courts, the United States Court of Claims, the United States Court of Appeals, the United States Court of International Trade, the United States District Court of the Canal Zone, the District Court of Guam, the District Court of the Virgin Islands, and the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands. "

**Contact details:**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Full contact details: | <i>All the designated clerks and deputy clerks</i><br><a href="http://www.uscourts.gov/links.html">http://www.uscourts.gov/links.html</a> |
|-----------------------|---|

*III. Officers of the individual States and other subdivisions as indicated:*

States :

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Alabama:      | Secretary of State<br><a href="http://www.sos.state.al.us/AdminServices/Authentications.aspx">www.sos.state.al.us/AdminServices/Authentications.aspx</a>  |
| Alaska:       | Lieutenant Governor; Attorney General and Clerk of the Appellate Courts<br><a href="http://apostille.alaska.gov">http://apostille.alaska.gov</a>  |
| Arizona:      | Secretary of State; Assistant Secretary of State<br><a href="http://www.azsos.gov/business_services/notary/Apostille.htm">www.azsos.gov/business_services/notary/Apostille.htm</a>  |
| Arkansas:     | Secretary of State; Chief Deputy Secretary of State<br><a href="http://sos.arkansas.gov/BCS/Pages/apostilleCertification.aspx">sos.arkansas.gov/BCS/Pages/apostilleCertification.aspx</a>   |
| California:   | Secretary of State; any Assistant Secretary of State; any Deputy Secretary of State<br><a href="http://www.sos.ca.gov/notary/authentication/">http://www.sos.ca.gov/notary/authentication/</a><br>e-Register: <a href="http://www.sos.ca.gov/business/notary/apostille-search/">http://www.sos.ca.gov/business/notary/apostille-search/</a>   |
| Colorado:     | Secretary of State; Deputy Secretary of State<br><a href="http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/notary/apostilleHelp.html">http://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/notary/apostilleHelp.html</a><br>e-Register: <a href="http://www.sos.state.co.us/auth/VerifyApostilleSearch.do">http://www.sos.state.co.us/auth/VerifyApostilleSearch.do</a>   |
| Connecticut:* | Secretary of State; Deputy Secretary of State; Director, Commercial Recording Division<br><a href="http://www.sots.ct.gov/sots/cwp/view.asp?a=3177&amp;q=392130&amp;SOTSNav_GID=1844">www.sots.ct.gov/sots/cwp/view.asp?a=3177&amp;q=392130&amp;SOTSNav_GID=1844</a>  |
| Delaware:     | Secretary of State; Acting Secretary of State<br><a href="http://corp.delaware.gov/apost_info.shtml">http://corp.delaware.gov/apost_info.shtml</a><br><a href="http://corp.delaware.gov/reqguide.shtml">http://corp.delaware.gov/reqguide.shtml</a>   |
| Florida:      | Secretary of State<br><a href="http://dos.myflorida.com/sunbiz/other-services/apostille-notarial-certification/">http://dos.myflorida.com/sunbiz/other-services/apostille-notarial-certification/</a>   |
| Georgia: *    | Georgia Superior Courts Clerks' Cooperative Authority<br>1875 Century Blvd. Ste. 100<br>Atlanta, GA<br>30345 404-327-6023<br>[email protected] / * * * /<br>Contact person: Peter Keesom<br><a href="http://www.gsccca.org/projects/apost.asp">http://www.gsccca.org/projects/apost.asp</a>   |
| Hawaii:       | Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawaii<br><a href="http://ltgov.hawaii.gov/the-office/apostilles-and-certifications/">http://ltgov.hawaii.gov/the-office/apostilles-and-certifications/</a>   |
| Idaho:        | Secretary of State; Chief Deputy Secretary of State; Deputy Secretary of State; Notary Public Clerk<br><a href="http://www.sos.idaho.gov/notary/apostill.htm">http://www.sos.idaho.gov/notary/apostill.htm</a>  |
| Illinois:     | Secretary of State; Assistant Secretary of State; Deputy Secretary of State<br><a href="http://cookcountyclerk.com/vitalrecords/authenticatingnotaries/pages/default.aspx">cookcountyclerk.com/vitalrecords/authenticatingnotaries/pages/default.aspx</a><br><a href="http://cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/index/notary/home.html">cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/index/notary/home.html</a> |
| Indiana:      | Secretary of State; Deputy Secretary of State<br><a href="http://www.state.in.us/sos/business/2377.htm">http://www.state.in.us/sos/business/2377.htm</a>  |
| Iowa:         | Secretary of State; Deputy Secretary of State<br><a href="https://sos.iowa.gov/notaries/about.html">https://sos.iowa.gov/notaries/about.html</a>  |



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|-----------------|--|
| Kansas:         | Secretary of State; Assistant Secretary of State; any Deputy Assistant Secretary of State<br><a href="http://www.kssos.org/business/notary_public/certifications.html">www.kssos.org/business/notary_public/certifications.html</a>  |
| Kentucky:       | Secretary of State; Assistant Secretary of State<br><a href="http://www.sos.ky.gov/bus/businessrecords/Pages/Apostilles-and-Authentications.aspx">http://www.sos.ky.gov/bus/businessrecords/Pages/Apostilles-and-Authentications.aspx</a>  |
| Louisiana:      | Secretary of State<br><a href="http://www.sos.la.gov/NotaryAndCertifications/Certifications/AuthenticateSignaturesOfLouisianaOfficials/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.sos.la.gov/NotaryAndCertifications/Certifications/AuthenticateSignaturesOfLouisianaOfficials/Pages/default.aspx</a>  |
| Maine:          | Secretary of State; Deputy Secretary of State<br><a href="http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/apostilles/">http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/apostilles/</a>   |
| Maryland:       | Secretary of State<br><a href="http://sos.maryland.gov/Certifications/Pages/default.aspx">http://sos.maryland.gov/Certifications/Pages/default.aspx</a>  |
| Massachusetts:  | Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for Public Records <i>beginning in 1981 through January 13, 1995</i><br>Deputy Secretary of State of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts <i>(beginning January 16, 1995 through November 16, 1995)</i><br>Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts <i>(from November 17, 1995)</i><br><a href="http://www.sec.state.ma.us/pre/precom/comidx.htm">www.sec.state.ma.us/pre/precom/comidx.htm</a> |
| Michigan:       | Secretary of State; Deputy Secretary of State<br><a href="http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1638_8734---,00.html">www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1638_8734---,00.html</a>  |
| Minnesota:      | Secretary of State; Deputy Secretary of State<br><a href="http://www.sos.state.mn.us/notary-apostille/">http://www.sos.state.mn.us/notary-apostille/</a>   |
| Mississippi:    | Secretary of State; any Assistant Secretary of State<br><a href="http://www.sos.ms.gov/BusinessServices/Pages/Apostilles-Authentications.aspx">http://www.sos.ms.gov/BusinessServices/Pages/Apostilles-Authentications.aspx</a>  |
| Missouri:       | Secretary of State; Deputy Secretary of State<br><a href="https://s1.sos.mo.gov/business/notary">https://s1.sos.mo.gov/business/notary</a>   |
| Montana:        | Secretary of State; Chief Deputy Secretary of State; Government Affairs Bureau Chief<br><a href="http://sos.mt.gov/Notary/Blocks/index.asp">http://sos.mt.gov/Notary/Blocks/index.asp</a>  |
| Nebraska:       | Secretary of State; Deputy Secretary of State<br><a href="http://www.sos.state.ne.us/business/notary/not_auth.html">www.sos.state.ne.us/business/notary/not_auth.html</a>  |
| Nevada:         | Secretary of State; Chief Deputy Secretary of State; Deputy Secretary of State<br><a href="http://nvsos.gov/index.aspx?page=124">http://nvsos.gov/index.aspx?page=124</a>  |
| New Hampshire:  | Secretary of State; Deputy Secretary of State<br><a href="http://sos.nh.gov/certs.aspx">http://sos.nh.gov/certs.aspx</a>   |
| New Jersey: *   | Secretary of State; Assistant Secretary of State<br><a href="http://nj.gov/treasury/revenue/apostilles.shtml">nj.gov/treasury/revenue/apostilles.shtml</a>   |
| New Mexico:     | Secretary of State<br><a href="http://sos.state.nm.us/Business_Services/Apostille_Information_Overview.aspx">sos.state.nm.us/Business_Services/Apostille_Information_Overview.aspx</a>   |
| New York:       | Secretary of State; Executive Deputy Secretary of State; any Deputy Secretary of State; any Special Deputy Secretary of State<br><a href="http://www.dos.ny.gov/licensing/apostille.html">http://www.dos.ny.gov/licensing/apostille.html</a>   |
| North Carolina: | Secretary of State; Deputy Secretary of State<br><a href="http://www.secretary.state.nc.us/authe/">www.secretary.state.nc.us/authe/</a><br>e-Register: <a href="http://www.secretary.state.nc.us/verification/">http://www.secretary.state.nc.us/verification/</a>   |
| North Dakota:   | Secretary of State; Deputy Secretary of State<br><a href="http://www.nd.gov/sos/notaryserv/certifications.html">www.nd.gov/sos/notaryserv/certifications.html</a>  |
| Ohio:           | Secretary of State; Assistant Secretary of State<br><a href="http://sos.state.oh.us/recordsIndexes/authentication.aspx">sos.state.oh.us/recordsIndexes/authentication.aspx</a>   |
| Oklahoma:       | Secretary of State; Assistant Secretary of State; Budget Officer of the Secretary of State<br><a href="https://www.sos.ok.gov/business/apostilles.aspx">https://www.sos.ok.gov/business/apostilles.aspx</a>  |

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|---------------------|---|
| Oregon:             | Secretary of State<br>Corporation Division<br>255 Capitol St. NE, Ste 151<br>Salem, OR 97310<br>503-986-2200<br>503-378-6520 (fax)<br>Contact person: Tom Wrosch<br><a href="http://filinginoregon.com/pages/notary/authentication/index.html">filinginoregon.com/pages/notary/authentication/index.html</a>  |
| Pennsylvania:       | Secretary of the Commonwealth; any Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth; Commissioner of the Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation<br><a href="http://www.dos.pa.gov/OtherServices/Certifications_Apostilles/Pages/default.aspx#.VSZ6dfDD-KU">http://www.dos.pa.gov/OtherServices/Certifications_Apostilles/Pages/default.aspx#.VSZ6dfDD-KU</a>  |
| Rhode Island:       | Secretary of State; First Deputy Secretary of State; Second Deputy Secretary of State<br><a href="http://sos.ri.gov/business/apostilles/">http://sos.ri.gov/business/apostilles/</a><br>e-Register: <a href="http://ucc.state.ri.us/ApostilleSearch/">http://ucc.state.ri.us/ApostilleSearch/</a>   |
| South Carolina:     | Secretary of State<br><a href="http://www.scsos.com/Apostilles">www.scsos.com/Apostilles</a>  |
| South Dakota:       | Secretary of State; Deputy Secretary of State<br><a href="http://sdsos.gov/services-for-individuals/apostilles-authentications.aspx">http://sdsos.gov/services-for-individuals/apostilles-authentications.aspx</a>  |
| Tennessee:          | Secretary of State<br><a href="http://tennessee.gov/sos/bus_svc/apostillesFAQs.htm">http://tennessee.gov/sos/bus_svc/apostillesFAQs.htm</a>   |
| Texas:              | Secretary of State; Deputy Secretary of State; Director<br>P.O. Box 13550<br>AUSTIN, Texas 78701<br>Fee: \$15 (with exception for adoption)<br><a href="http://www.sos.state.tx.us/authinfo.shtml">http://www.sos.state.tx.us/authinfo.shtml</a><br>e-Register: <a href="https://sosdirectws.sos.state.tx.us/pdfondemand/CertValidation.aspx">https://sosdirectws.sos.state.tx.us/pdfondemand/CertValidation.aspx</a> |
| Utah:               | Lieutenant Governor; Deputy Lieutenant Governor; Administrative Assistant<br><a href="http://www.authentications.utah.gov/">http://www.authentications.utah.gov/</a>  |
| Vermont:            | Secretary of State; Deputy Secretary of State<br><a href="http://vermont-archives.org/notary/guide/Notary5.htm">http://vermont-archives.org/notary/guide/Notary5.htm</a>  |
| Virginia:           | Secretary of the Commonwealth; Chief Clerk, Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth<br><a href="https://commonwealth.virginia.gov/official-documents/authentications/">https://commonwealth.virginia.gov/official-documents/authentications/</a>  |
| Washington (State): | Secretary of State; Assistant Secretary of State; Director, Department of Licensing<br><a href="http://www.secstate.wa.gov/corps/apostilles/">www.secstate.wa.gov/corps/apostilles/</a>   |
| West Virginia:      | Secretary of State; Under Secretary of State; any Deputy Secretary of State<br><a href="http://www.sos.wv.gov/business-licensing/authentications/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.sos.wv.gov/business-licensing/authentications/Pages/default.aspx</a><br>e-Register: <a href="http://apps.sos.wv.gov/business/apostilles/">http://apps.sos.wv.gov/business/apostilles/</a>   |

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| Wisconsin: | <p>1. Secretary of State; Assistant Secretary of State<br/>www.sos.state.wi.us/apostilles.htm</p> <p>2. Department of Financial Institutions: Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Administrator of the Division of Corporate and Consumer Services<br/>201 W. Washington Avenue, Suite 500<br/>Madison, WI 53703<br/>www.wdfi.org<br/>Contact person: Administrator, Division of Corporate and Consumer Services<br/>e-mail: DFIApostilleAuthentication@wisconsin.gov<br/><i>(The classes of documents for which it has competence to issue apostilles are public documents issued in the State of Wisconsin which are signed by a notary public or Wisconsin public officer, or signed or issued by a Wisconsin school officer, or are a Wisconsin vital record.)</i></p> |
| Wyoming:   | Secretary of State; Deputy Secretary of State website   |

Other Subdivisions:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| American Samoa:                                 | Secretary of American Samoa; Attorney General of American Samoa  |
| District of Columbia (Washington, D.C.):        | Executive Secretary; Assistant Executive Secretary; Mayor's Special Assistant and Assistant to the Executive Secretary; Secretary of the District of Columbia<br>https://os.dc.gov/service/notary-and-authentication-services                              |
| Guam (Territory of):                            | Director, Department of Administration; Acting Director, Department of Administration; Deputy Director, Department of Administration; Acting Deputy Director, Department of Administration   |
| Northern Mariana Islands (Commonwealth of the): | Attorney General; Acting Attorney General; Clerk of the Court, Commonwealth Trial Court; Deputy Clerk, Commonwealth Trial Court  |
| Puerto Rico (Commonwealth of):                  | Under Secretary of State; Assistant Secretary of State for External Affairs; Assistant Secretary of State; Chief, Certifications Office; Director, Office of Protocol; Assistant Secretary of State for International Affairs, Chief, Certification Office |
| Virgin Islands of the United States             | no authority designated".  |

\* By Note dated 12 December 1997, the Embassy of the United States of America in The Hague informed the depositary that in accordance with Article 6, paragraph 2, the Legislature of the State of Georgia has designated the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority as the only appropriate entity to issue apostilles in the state of Georgia effective 1 February 1998.

By communication dated 2 November 2006, the State Department informed the Permanent Bureau that for New Jersey, the competent authority is now the New Jersey Division of Revenue.

By communication dated 3 August 2009, the Embassy of the United States of America in The Hague informed the depositary of additional competent authorities for the state of Connecticut.

**Contact details:**

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Full contact details: | <i>Competent authorities - Secretary of State (NASS website)</i> |
|-----------------------|--|

**Practical Information:**

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| Price: | <p>The US Department of State Authentication Office charges \$ 8.00 per document.</p> <p>The US Department of State, Passport Services, Vital Records Office charges no fee for issuance or an apostille on a document bearing the seal of a US embassy or consulate.</p> <p>The fees charged by individual US states vary, ranging from US \$ 3 to US \$ 20.</p> |
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| Useful<br>Links: |  |
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(This page was last updated on 31 October 2018)

## Conventions (incl. Protocols and Principles)

- [Convention of 5 October 1961 Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents \[12\]](#)