

Note: the Birth Certificate needs to be
AUTHENTICATED rather than Apostille

REQUEST
AUTHENTICATION
= non-Hague country

Apostille versus Authentication

The difference between an Apostille and Authentication for Documents is so simple, first, An **Apostille** is a form of authentication issued for documents that will be used in [countries that participate in the Hague Convention](#) of 1961. Apostilles are only used to authenticate documents that will be used in another country. An Apostille may take the form of a stamp upon a document or it may be attached to the document as an allonge (a French word describing an attachment to a legal document). If an allonge is used, it is important that it NEVER be detached from the original document, to which it may be stapled, glued, or otherwise firmly attached.

Second, **Authentication** refers to countries that are not members of the Apostille Convention and require different forms and certifications. [The Department of State Authentication](#) process for [non-Apostille countries](#) is conducted by the US Department of State as well. There are about 80 countries that do not subscribe to the Hague Convention, but still need to have official documents verified in order to be used in those countries. **The process is similar to obtaining an Apostille, however it requires the additional Embassy Legalization by the Embassy of the country in which the document is to be presented.** As these requirements change, we recommend that you consult the embassy website for information or call the relevant embassy before attempting to legalize your document on your own.

Author: Frank W, Expedited Apostille services provider in California [Nov 20, 2016]

Apostille: An apostille is a certificate — often attached to the document by an appropriate government official after it is notarized. Under the Hague Convention, signatory countries have agreed to recognize public documents issued by other signatory countries if those public documents are authenticated by the attachment of an internationally recognized form of authentication known as an "**apostille**". The Apostille ensures that public documents issued in one signatory country will be recognized as valid in another signatory country.

There is a detailed list of countries that fall under the Apostille process which was established by the Hague Convention.

Currently there are 97 countries that require this process be adhered to with all official documents including birth or death certificates, school transcripts, court documents or divorce decrees and other local, state or federal court issued documents. The object of the **Apostille** is to

"abolish the requirement of diplomatic or consular legalization for foreign public documents". The completed **Apostille** certifies the authenticity of the signature, the capacity in which the person signing the document has acted, and identifies the seal/stamp which the document bears.

Authentication: Authentication stands for the **verification of the genuineness of a document or signature**, to make it effective or valid.

For countries which are not signatories to the Hague Convention of 1961, documents are required to go through the authentication process certifying the authenticity of the document before being presented in the country of use.

Although the first steps are similar to the Apostille process, **the Authentication Process** does require an additional step of Embassy Legalization by the Embassy of the country in which the document will be presented. After obtaining the US Department of State certification, we will present your document to the Embassy of the respective country to obtain their authentication stamp. This will be the final step, completing the process.

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Website sources: <https://www.quora.com/What-is-the-difference-between-apostille-and-authentication>

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