

## APOSTILLE

An APOSTILLE is used by foreign governments to assess the authenticity of an official signature. It is recognized only by countries that have signed the Convention of the Hague of 1961. For those countries that are not signatories, the Department of State attaches a certification. When the Department of State certifies a document with an APOSTILLE, the department verifies that the person who signed the document is a Pennsylvania official and the department has given “full faith and credit” to the official’s seal and signature. The APOSTILLE is prepared by the Pennsylvania Department of State for documents signed and sealed by the County Elected Officials.

The Marriage Application and Duplicate are the most commonly requested documents for authentication by the Department of State. Marriage Documents are required for Foreign Adoptions, dual citizenship and registering marriages performed in USA in a foreign country. The two types of authentication of the records issued by this office and accepted by the Department of State are <sup>(1)</sup> the Certification of the Marriage signed by the Elected Clerk of the Orphans' Court and <sup>(2)</sup> the Exemplification, which includes the complete marriage application, signed by the Elected Clerk of the Orphans’ Court and a Judge of the Orphans’ Court.

For more information or to request an APOSTILLE: Contact the Department of State at:

Pennsylvania Department of State  
Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation  
Room 210 North Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Phone: 717.787.5280  
Email: [ra-notaries@state.pa.us](mailto:ra-notaries@state.pa.us)

More information may be obtained by visiting the Department of State website: [www.dos.state.pa.us](http://www.dos.state.pa.us)

On that page, look on the left side and click on Certifications, Apostilles, and the Authentication of Documents.