

Apostille for Documents Issued in France

The United States and France are both parties to the Hague Convention which abolishes the requirement of legalization for Foreign Public Documents and simplifies the procedure necessary for French documents to be used in the United States.

Documents issued in one country which need to be used in another country must be "authenticated" or "legalized" before they can be recognized as valid in the foreign country. This is a process in which various seals are placed on the document. Such documents range from powers of attorney, affidavits, birth, death and marriages records, incorporation papers, deeds, patent applications, home studies and other legal papers. The number and type of authentication certificates that you will need to obtain depend on the nature of the document.

The *apostille* must be affixed at the government agency in the country which issued the original document.

There is no charge for the apostille, which normally should be ready for pick up in 48 hours.

The U.S Consulate General does not have the authority to affix an apostille to documents issued in France or in other countries.

For Marseille Residents, please go to the following office:

Cour d'Appel d'Aix-en-Provence

Service Apostille

20 Place de Verdun

13616 Aix-en-Provence cedex 1

Tel: 04.42.33.80.00

Email address: apostilles.ca-ex-en-provence@justice.fr

Residing outside of Marseille and Aix-en-Provence? Please contact the Procureur General (General Prosecutor) or the nearest Appeals Court (Court d'Appel) with questions on which documents require certification for recognition in the United States and how to obtain the apostille.

United States Consulate General

American Citizen Services

Place Varian Fry

13006 Marseille

Website: <http://marseille.usconsulate.gov/>

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