

Topic: Authentication Questions
 Question by: Rebecca Longfellow
 Jurisdiction: Indiana
 Date: May 29, 2013

Jurisdiction	Question(s)
	<p>For those states that issue both an authentication and apostille certification:</p> <p>Do your authentication certificates look like the apostille certificates – follow the same basic format with a box and unique number etc. or do they look more like a word document with a seal and signature.</p> <p>Does anyone know if there is a requirement that there is more than the Secretary’s signature on a given authentication? We have some of our authentications currently formatted to include the Secretary’s signature and the processing clerk’s signature.</p> <p>For states that have gone to just the apostille:</p> <p>Was the transition simple?</p> <p>Have you had any unforeseen issues?</p>
Manitoba	
Corporations Canada	
Alabama	
Alaska	
Arizona	
Arkansas	
California	
Colorado	
Connecticut	
Delaware	
District of Columbia	
Florida	

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Georgia	
Hawaii	
Idaho	
Illinois	<p>In response to your colleague’s questions I have attached samples of the authentication documents we issue.</p> <p>The first image is an apostille that is issued with documents bound for nations that are members of the Hague Convention. The apostille has an adhesive-backed gold seal of the state of Illinois and it is affixed to cover the front and back of the staple that attaches the apostille to the customer’s document.</p> <p>The second image is what we refer to as a Certificate of Incumbency which certifies that the public official issued the document during the incumbency of his/her elected or appointed term in office.</p> <p>The third image is known as a Certificate of Authority and is used to certify that a notary public is currently in his/her notary commission and is in good standing.</p> <p>Both certificates are printed in blue ink and have two images of the seal of the state of Illinois.</p> <p>Illinois only requires the signature of the Secretary of State in order to be valid.</p> <p>Please tell your colleague that he or she should feel welcome to contact me if there are any secondary questions about our authentication process.</p>

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Indiana	
Iowa	
Kansas	
Kentucky	
Louisiana	Louisiana is the same as Ohio.
Maine	
Maryland	
Massachusetts	
Michigan	
Minnesota	
Mississippi	
Missouri	
Montana	
Nebraska	
Nevada	
New Hampshire	
New Jersey	

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New Mexico	
New York	
North Carolina	<p>North Carolina Issues Apostille, authentication and authority certifications. Apostille's go directly to the jurisdiction of use and authentication and authority's go to the State Department of further processing. The difference between an authentication and an authority is the type of document being certified. If it is a state document, i.e., vital record the certification is an authentication, if the document is a notarial document, i.e, power of attorney the certification is an authority.</p> <p>The Certificate of Authentication and Authority are different from the Apostille Certificate and do not have the "box" or numbered fields - they are, like you said, more a word document with seal and signature. The Secretary's signature is printed along with the seal and our Deputy Secretary signs each document.</p>
North Dakota	<p>North Dakota's authentication and apostille certificates do not follow the same format nor do either of the certificates provide for a secondary signature.</p>
Ohio	<p>There are similarities with the appearance, but the authentication is more like a word document with seal and signature, however, each has a unique number. The authentication only has the Secretary's signature and seal, we do not have a processing clerk sign the document.</p>
Oklahoma	

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Oregon	<p>Just as an FYI to those who aren't part of the Notary Public Administrators listserv, this is a topic we've discussed quite a bit at our NASS conferences. NASS has actually passed a uniform standard for apostilles and also adopted an Apostille Guidelines Handbook (inspired by IACA's STS Jurisdiction Guidelines). If you'd like more information, drop me a note.</p> <p>FWIW, two countries - the United Kingdom and Costa Rica - have adopted a single format for both authentication (non- Hague countries) and apostilles. In the U.S., Oregon has adopted a single certificate and several states are moving toward that method. The major sticking point is China, which refuses - contrary to the Convention - to recognize the single certificate format from a U.S. jurisdiction. We are working on them, but we have a workaround that they accept. Every other country has no problem and the Dept. of State is very supportive.</p>
Pennsylvania	Taking the easy way out. Pennsylvania is just like Washington.
Rhode Island	
South Carolina	
South Dakota	
Tennessee	
Texas	<p>The Apostille has the format that is used by the Hague convention. It’s titled Apostille, the information is within a box and it has a unique number. The authentication certificate is a word document with a signature and seal. The certificate also will have a unique certificate number beginning next month, though until that’s implemented the certificates have had no number. Adding the certificate number has required some programming time and we are prepared to receive some questions as we also phase out gold seal paper to be replaced by black and white seals (to be consistent with other Office documents). The Secretary of State is the only signature on apostilles and certificates. I don’t think we would have the option to go to only apostille unless every country joins the Hague.</p>

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Utah	In Utah the apostille is done in the Lt. Gov's office, not ours.
Vermont	
Virginia	
Washington	<p>Yes, they are similar formatting with different language. Both have the state seal on certificate paper.</p> <p>Certificates and Apostilles from the Secretary of State's office only have the Secretary's signature. No problems with the signature that we are aware of.</p>
West Virginia	
Wisconsin	
Wyoming	

Additional comments:

Full text of email:

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Have you had any unforeseen issues?

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