

Topic: Change of Secretary of State/Notice to Foreign Consulate

Question by: Jeff Lee

Jurisdiction: Mississippi

Date: January 17, 2020

Jurisdiction	Question(s)
	<p>Any insight into the matter below is much appreciated. Our 36th Secretary of State, Michael Watson was sworn in last week. This is my first transition from one Secretary to another.</p> <p>Now, we have a situation where a customer had us authenticate certain documents for submission to the Chinese Consulate in Houston, TX. Because of difficulty communicating by phone, the customer decided to hand-deliver these documents to the consulate, driving 6.5 hours one way to do so. The consulate wouldn't accept the documents because of the change in Secretary - advised the customer that he must provide proof that the signature on the documents was actually the signature of our Secretary. The customer suggested that it should be the consulate's place to confirm this, but the consulate told him it would be up to him to provide it.</p> <p>In an attempt to assist the (very frustrated) customer, I managed to eventually speak with a rep at the consulate by phone and try and determine what we need to do for them. I'm still unclear on exactly what they want, but they insist there should be some official notice given to them when we change SOS, and more importantly, they should be given an official sample of his signature. The rep was not receptive at all to my suggestions of visiting our website, or doing an internet search for Secretary Watson.</p> <p>Does anyone have any experience with this process? I'm particularly interested in who's office this would come from in your state? Do we vouch for ourselves? Does it come from the Governor's office? Thanks again.</p>
Manitoba	
Corporations Canada	
Alabama	
Alaska	
Arizona	
Arkansas	
California	
Colorado	

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Connecticut	
Delaware	
District of Columbia	
Florida	
Georgia	
Hawaii	
Idaho	
Illinois	
Indiana	
Iowa	
Kansas	
Kentucky	
Louisiana	
Maine	

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Maryland	
Massachusetts	
Michigan	
Minnesota	
Mississippi	
Missouri	
Montana	
Nebraska	
Nevada	
New Hampshire	
New Jersey	
New Mexico	
New York	

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North Carolina	
North Dakota	
Ohio	
Oklahoma	
Oregon	
Pennsylvania	<p>Each time we have a change (new Secretary, from Acting to confirmed or in our secondary signatory), we promptly notify the Chinese Consulate in NYC. We find that this helps avoid such rejections. Please see attached for one of our recent letters. They come from the Secretary's office (vs Governor's Office) and seem to do the trick. We also notify US DOS.</p>
Rhode Island	
South Carolina	
South Dakota	
Tennessee	

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Texas	
Utah	
Vermont	
Virginia	
Washington	
West Virginia	
Wisconsin	
Wyoming	

Additional comments:

Full text of email:

All,

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-Jeff

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Business Services Division

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