



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
MICHAEL G. ADAMS

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Secretary of State Apostille and Authentication Format Change

The Kentucky Secretary of State has adopted the Model Apostille Certificate format of the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

Certificates issued for countries signatory to the Hague Convention for the Legalization of Foreign Documents and non-signatory countries will look exactly the same. Every Apostille and Authentication certificate issued by the Kentucky Secretary of State's office will be in one uniform and standard format, complying with national and international standards.

There will no longer be a foil seal at the bottom of the certificate, there will be a printed seal. As an enhanced security feature for Apostilles issued in paper format, there will be a foil seal over the staple that is affixed to paper Apostilles.

Each certificate has a unique number, with which you may verify its authenticity on our website: <https://web.sos.ky.gov/apostille/verification.aspx>

The certificate will no longer bear the name of the country for which it was issued.

In addition to conforming to recognized standards, we believe this change simplifies and speeds up the legalization of foreign documents.