

How do you apostille personal documents?

You apostille personal documents the same way you apostille business or corporate documents, depending on whether they are classified as **recordable** or **non-recordable documents**.

If your personal documents are considered **recordable documents**, such as a birth certificate, death certificate, divorce decree or divorce certificate, or a marriage license or marriage certificate. Then you must submit the original document or a city, county, or state-issued certified copy (it cannot be a photocopy or a notarized copy) of the document to the Secretary of State of the state where the document was issued from.

Meaning, if your recordable document was issued in the State of Texas, the Texas Secretary of State is the only government entity in the country that can issue a state-level apostille on that document.

If your personal documents are considered **non-recordable documents**, such as elementary school/high school/college diplomas, degrees, transcripts, and records, criminal background check reports (excluding FBI and Texas DPS issued background checks) power of attorneys, contracts, leases, bills of sale, agreements, single status affidavits, passports, drivers licenses, visas, Pan cards, green cards, phone or utility bills, or social security card copies then you must get them properly notarized and they must be the originals in almost all cases.

Then you submit them to the Secretary of State of the state where the document was notarized.

For example, say you get a photocopy of your Texas driver's license notarized in California. In this scenario, you can

only get it apostilled at the California Secretary of State in Sacramento, CA. And vice versa, if you had a California driver's license copy notarized in Texas, you could only get it apostilled by the Texas Secretary of State.