

# Where do I get the Hague apostille?

To receive a Hague apostille certificate in the United States, you first need to figure out if your document is classified as a state or federal level document, and to which foreign country your documents are being submitted to.

If your legal documents are considered federal (like an FBI criminal background check report), then they can only be filed at the U.S Department of State in Washington, D.C, which is the only government entity that issues federal apostilles and authentication certificates.

If your legal documents are considered state (like a birth certificate), they can only be filed at one of the 50 Secretary of State offices where the document originated from and/or was notarized. Meaning, if you were born in Texas but now live in California, you can only get an apostille certificate issued on that Texas birth certificate from the Texas Secretary of State, not the California Secretary of State.