



Frequently Asked Questions – Apostille Services

1. What is an apostille?

- An apostille is an official certificate issued by the Secretary of State that verifies the authenticity of a public document, such as a birth certificate, notarized affidavit, or power of attorney– so that it can be legally recognized in another country.
- Apostilles are used specifically for countries that are members of the Hague Apostille Convention, an international treaty that simplifies the process of legalizing documents across borders.
- Without an apostille, your document may not be accepted abroad, especially for purposes like studying, working, getting married, or handling legal matters in another country.

2. Why do I need an apostille?

- You need an apostille if you're sending a notarized or official document to a foreign country that is a member of the Hague Convention. Common reasons include:
 - Studying or working abroad
 - Getting married overseas
 - Adopting a child from another country
 - Conducting business internationally

3. What types of documents commonly require an apostille?

- Birth, marriage, or death certificates
- Power of attorney
- School transcripts or diplomas
- Corporate documents
- Notarized affidavits

4. Do I need to notarize my document before getting an apostille?

- In most cases, yes. Ocean Notary will ensure your document is properly notarized and ready for the apostille process.

5. Can Ocean Notary handle the apostille process for me?

- Yes! I can manage the entire process from start to finish– saving you time and reducing confusion. Ocean Notary will notarize your document (if needed), submit it to the appropriate state office, and ensure it's returned to you securely.

6. How long does the apostille process take?

- Processing time varies based on the document type and state processing times, but we'll give you an estimated timeline when you book.