

# Authentication of Documents

The Secretary of State's office is responsible for providing authentication on public documents that are to be used abroad. The purpose of authentication is to verify for foreign governments that a public official is in good standing.

These officials include Notary Publics, State, District, County Officials and Registrars of the Arkansas Health Department, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

There are two types of authentication. The receiving country determines whether an **Apostille** or **Certification** is needed. If you are uncertain which type of authentication you need, you should contact the Consulate of the receiving country or the US Department of State's Authentication Office at the Internet address below:

[www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)

Or at the physical address below:

**US Department of State  
Authentication Office  
Columbia Plaza  
(State Annex #1)  
518 23rd Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520  
202-647-5002 or 1-800-688-9889**

Two different departments within the Arkansas Secretary of State's office prepare the most common types of Authentication. If you have a question about one of the following documents, please call the appropriate toll free number.

**Elections Division: 1-800-482-1127**

Marriage Licenses  
Single-Status Certifications  
Judgments (Circuit or Chancery)  
Education documents

**Corporations Divisions: 1-888-233-0325**

Certificate of Good Standing  
Articles of Incorporation  
Birth Certificates  
Notaries

The Secretary of State's office can only certify or authenticate documents which were issued in the State of Arkansas by the following public officials:

County Officials  
State Officials  
District Officials  
Notaries  
Registrars of the Arkansas Department of Health; Bureau of Vital Statistics

In order to expedite requests, a fee of \$10 per document is required on those documents that require the Apostille to be attached. On documents that are to receive a Certification, there is a fee of \$5 per document. The turn around time on most of these requests is 24 to 48 hours. We will accept payment by check, cash, credit card or money order.