

INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS

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Legal Documents for Use Outside of Canada: Apostille or Authentication

The Secretariat Office receives many phone calls regarding the drafting of legal documents destined for execution in other countries.

Canada is not a signatory to the **Hague Convention to Abolish the Requirements for Authentication** of documents for use in other countries; therefore BC Notaries do not do Apostilles. [For a list of the Hague Convention member nations, please visit http://travel.state.gov/hague_foreign_docs.html#countries.]

Notaries Public in British Columbia follow a progressive process of Authentication and Legalization. They use a document much like an Apostille—called a Form 10 International Certificate of Identity. This document is used by BC Notaries to identify the person appearing before them. Form 10 is attached to the signed documents the client will be sending overseas.

A Jurat is often attached to the signed documents. A Jurat is a signed statement by the Notary Public that proves the signer:

1. personally appeared before the Notary Public;
2. signed the document in the presence of the Notary Public; and
3. took a solemn oath or affirmation administered by the Notary Public.

When the paper is a Certified True Copy, a Notarial Certificate of Identity is not required. The document should be stamped “Certified True Copy” and be

signed, dated, then stamped with the Notary’s Seal impression. The document should state its length, if it is more than one page.

All documents are presented to the Secretariat in Vancouver for further Authentication of the Notary’s Signature, Seal, and District.

These may also be required.

- Further certificates of Authentication from the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of BC. Note: for this procedure, if the document is in a foreign language, a brief description of contents—signed by the Notary—is required.
- “Super Legalization” from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Consulate of the destination country is the final stage for the legalization of documents. The Country of destination determines the type of Authentication/Legalization required.

The BC Government Website www.gov.bc.ca lists various Consulate addresses, phone numbers, and related Websites to assist people to obtain information they might need.

A BC Notary’s work on documents reflects the professionalism of all Notaries Public in the province. Having your local Notary process documents for use in another country is a sensible decision. ▲

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