

Legalization of documents between Italy and the U.S.A.: The Apostille

Italy and the United States are both members of the Hague Convention of 5 October 1961 abolishing the need to legalize foreign public documents. Based on the Convention it is no longer necessary to ask the embassies or consulates of the two countries to legalize a document or certificate. Legalization has been substituted with an “Apostille” which is placed on the document. Thereafter the document is recognized as legal in the two countries.

The Apostille is a stamp or seal placed on documents or certificates released by foreign authorities with the goal to confirm their authenticity and render them valid for use in the country where the document needs to be used or presented; in this case from the United States to Italy and vice versa.

In the United States, the Apostille is issued by the **Secretary of State of the state in which the document was originally issued**. The following are the State offices that fall under the the jurisdiction of the Consulate of Italy in Detroit:

IN MICHIGAN (In person):

Secretary of State

3046 W. Grand Blvd. Suite L650

DETROIT, MI 48202

Tel. (517) 335-3094

IN MICHIGAN (By mail):

Michigan Department of State

Office of the Great Seal

7064 Crowser Blvd.

LANSING, MI 48918-1750

Tel. (517) 373-2531

Home page: <http://www.sos.state.mi.us/greatse/index.html>

* please note that this Secretary of State does not place Apostilles on certificates issued over one year ago.

IN OHIO:

Ohio Secretary of State

Election Division

180 East Broad Street, 15th Floor

Columbus, OH. 43215

Tel. (614) 466-2585

Home page: http://www.state.oh.us/sos/election_services.htm

IN INDIANA:

Indiana Secretary of State

201 State House

Indianapolis, IN. 46204

Tel. (317) 232-6531

Home page: <http://www.state.in.us/sos/>

IN KENTUCKY:

Secretary of State

150 New Capitol Building

Frankfort, KY. 40601

Tel. (502) 564-7330

Home page: <http://www.sos.state.ky.us/>

IN TENNESSEE:

Secretary of State

Notary Division

312 Eight Avenue North

6th Floor - William R. Snodgrass Tower

Nashville, TN. 37243

Tel. (615) 741-3699

Home page: <http://www.state.tn.us/sos/>