



EVIE RAFALKO McNULTY
LACKAWANNA COUNTY RECORDER OF DEEDS
123 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503
(570) 963-6775

FOREIGN LANGUAGE DOCUMENTS

Any foreign language document must include a written English translation, sworn or affirmed by the translator and must be recorded along with the original document. An apostille or certification of authorization may be required depending upon the country of origin.

Apostilles and the Authentication of Documents

According to the [Pennsylvania Department of State](#), when a Pennsylvania notary public notarizes a document that will be filed in another state or country, the notary may be asked for proof of his or her appointment. This verification, depending upon the requirements of the particular state or country, may be obtained from the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The individual for whom the notarization was completed should check with the state or country for their requirements.

The Secretary of the Commonwealth also provides authentication of public officials' signatures on documents (Please note: a commissioned notary public is a public official). If the document is to be used outside the United States, the country of destination determines whether the authentication is an Apostille or Certification. The Apostille and other verifications are prepared by the Secretary of the Commonwealth for a \$ 15.00 fee.

At this time the following countries and territories that have accepted the Hague Convention.

List of counties and territories

A Certification of Authentication is affixed to documents intended for countries that are not party to the Hague Convention. Apostilles require no further diplomatic or consular legislation, while Certificates of Authentication must first be processed by the U.S. Department of State.

For frequently asked questions and apostille instructions from the [Pennsylvania Department of State](#), please visit their website.