



Resolution of the Notary Public Administrators
A Section of the National Association of Secretaries of State

July 19, 2009

Resolution

Recognizing that under the Hague Apostille Convention each competent authority retains the discretion to issue apostilles in a form consistent with the basic requirements of the Convention;

And further recognizing that this affords the possibility of a variety of forms;

And further recognizing that the variety of forms issued by US state competent authorities has led to confusion among and rejections by intended recipients of US state-issued apostilles;

And further recognizing that a higher degree of uniformity among US state-issued apostilles would alleviate confusion and minimize rejections;

The Notary Public Administrators, a section of the National Association of Secretaries of State, resolve to develop a series of best practices with the goal of achieving uniformity to the greatest extent possible in regards to the following characteristics of US state-issued apostilles. We resolve to:

- Develop a uniform design of the apostille including the size and border of the apostille;
- Implement uniform information to be included outside the box as per Conclusion and Recommendation No. 85 of the Special Commission on the Practical Operation of the Hague Apostille, Service, Evidence and Access to Justice Conventions of 2009 (SC);
- Develop additional language outside the box to address the common concerns about the misuse of apostilles;
- Study and implement a uniform method of tamper evident affixation of apostilles; and
- Recommend the removal of any obstacles to the issuance of apostilles while maintaining the integrity of authentications in accordance with the SC Conclusion and Recommendation No. 79.

And the Notary Public Administrators further resolve to encourage the active consideration of issuing electronic apostilles and implementing electronic records of apostilles as suggested by the electronic Apostille Pilot Project (e-APP).